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ON  
EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGY.

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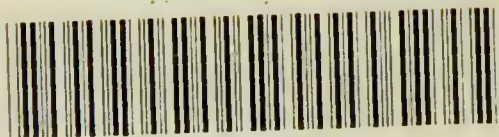
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# NOTES

ON

## EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGY.

BY

LORD LILFORD, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

BEING

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# NOTES

## ON

### EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGY.

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#### EUROPEAN TURKEY AND GREECE.

THE following notes were taken between the beginning of January 1857 and the end of July 1858. They are almost entirely the results of my own observation; and in the few instances in which this is not the case, the information was given me by persons on whose accuracy I could depend. My observations were chiefly made during shooting expeditions in the winter, as I had not become sufficiently inured to the summer heats in 1857 to explore the marshes of the mainland, or the olive-groves and *Arbutus*-coverts of Corfu; and during the same season of 1858 I was prevented from so doing by indisposition. These causes necessarily render my list of summer migrants very imperfect. I may also mention that I had no work on ornithology to refer to, except Temminck's 'Manuel,' and only one friend and companion who was at all interested in the subject of birds and their habits. I therefore claim the indulgence of the readers of 'The Ibis' for the many imperfections which they will doubtless discover in the following notes, and, "unaccustomed as I am to public writing," for deficiencies and rawness of style.

1. GRIFFON VULTURE. (*Gyps fulvus*.)

This Vulture is very abundant in Epirus, and indeed in all parts of the mainland which I have visited during the winter months. At Butrinto, a favourite shooting resort from Corfu, I have observed great numbers, particularly during the rainy weather of January and February 1857, when they were attracted by the quantities of horses and cattle which died, and were left to decay in the marshes. Having mentioned to *a* (or, more properly speaking, to *the*) bird-stuffer of Corfu that I should like to have one of these birds alive, he in a few days procured me four from the mainland. They were all wounded, apparently by swords or knives, and three died soon after I first saw them. I administered gin-and-water and bullock's liver internally, and olive-oil externally to the fourth, who soon recovered sufficiently to lacerate my hands whenever I attempted to touch him, and eventually escaped with about five feet of stout rope attached to his leg. I never could discover that these Vultures bred in the neighbourhood of the coast; but a pair or two are to be observed at almost all seasons in the vicinity of Santa Quaranta, Tre Scoglie, Butrinto, Ptelia, Paganìa, Livitazza, and Phaëari, small harbours on the coast of Epirus frequented by sportsmen from Corfu.

2. CINEREOUS VULTURE. (*Vultur monachus*)?

I once, and once only, observed a very large black-looking Vulture engaged on the remains of a horse, near Butrinto, in the winter of 1857. It certainly was not *Gyps fulvus*. The Corfu bird-preserver told me that he had seen a Black Vulture from the mainland, but that it was very rare. This species is common in the island of Sardinia.

3. EGYPTIAN VULTURE. (*Neophron percnopterus*.)

Very common in summer on the mainland. A pair bred in 1857 in a low sea-cliff near Ptelia, about seven

miles from Corfu, across the channel which separates the island from Albania, or more properly Epirus. I have been assured that it also breeds on San Salvador in the island of Corfu. The first I recognized was near Prevesa, in the Gulf of Arta, on the 15th of March, 1857. I have never observed them later than the beginning of September, and I never saw a specimen except in the white adult plumage.

4. BEARDED VULTURE. (*Gypaëtus barbatus*) ?

I can speak almost confidently, though not with complete certainty, of having observed this species on three separate occasions in Epirus and Ætolia. The first instance was on the 29th December, 1857, when shooting near the village of Kinouria, at the head of the lake of Butrinto. I then noticed a large vulturine-looking bird with a wedge-shaped tail, sailing at a considerable height, among a party of Griffon Vultures; his flight struck me as much lighter and more falconine than that of his companions; I noticed also the rich tawny-red colour of his breast. The only reason I had to doubt to what species he belonged arose from his small size, and I went on my way, after he had disappeared, deeply pondering on what he could be. The second time I noticed a Lämmergeyer was at Phanari, on the coast of Epirus. This time he came within twenty yards of us, as we were woodcock-shooting, and received three barrels of No. 8 with no apparent effect. I was again in this instance struck by the small size of the bird; but there was the wedge-shaped tail—and what could he be but "*Barbuddu*," as the Sardes call him? The third instance was in Acarnania, near Port Platea, not far from the town of Tragomesti. This time there were a pair, and nothing to complain of as regards size. They were enormous birds and very dark-coloured; in fact, till they came well over my head, I fancied they were specimens of *Vultur monachus*; but the

uncate tail set my mind at rest. I may mention that I have since noticed this species in Sardinia, and never observed any individuals either so small as the first here mentioned, or nearly so dark-coloured as the second or third. I especially call the attention of ornithologists visiting Turkey and Greece to these facts, as my own conviction is that there is a new species akin to *G. barbatus* to be discovered in those countries.

5. GOLDEN EAGLE. (*Aquila chrysaëtos*.)

This species is not very common, as far as my own observation goes, in Albania and Epirus. I have not seen it more than twice—both times near Butrinto.

6. IMPERIAL EAGLE. (*Aquila heliaca*.)

Not rare in winter on the coasts of Epirus. I have often observed it near Butrinto, and on the 18th of January, 1857, picked up a very fine specimen, dying from wounds, on the banks of the Butrinto river. A friend found another dead in the winter of 1858, in the great marsh between Santa Quaranta and Delvino in Epirus, about twenty miles north of Corfu. The Corfu bird-preserve assured me that this species breeds in the precipices of San Salvador in the island of Corfu. I have seen an individual of this species seize and carry off a Golden-Eye (*Anas clangula*), which had been wounded a few minutes previously by one of our party, whilst woodcock-shooting near Butrinto. This is a much less wary species than the preceding, and will often allow one to approach within gunshot when perched on a tree looking out for wild-fowl, which seem to form its principal food in Albania.

7. SPOTTED EAGLE. (*Aquila nævia*.)

Very abundant, in January and February 1857, in all the marshes of Epirus; less so, though still common, in the following winter. As soon as a gun is fired in any of the marshes about Butrinto, one or more of these birds is



sure to appear, and keep flying about from tree to tree, apparently on the watch for prey, though I never saw them pursue any bird, and imagine that they feed chiefly upon rats, frogs, and such "small deer." I have seen this species several times in Corfu. I never observed it in summer, and, as far as I could find out, it is a regular winter visitor in Epirus, appearing in that country about the latter end of September, and remaining until the middle or end of March. I never saw one of this species except in or near marshes, and it is certainly the most tree-loving Eagle with which I am acquainted. It is not, according to my own observation, so common in Acarnania as in Epirus.

8. BONELLI'S EAGLE. (*Aquila bonellii*.)

I was shown a stuffed specimen of this Eagle at Corfu which was said to have been shot on the mainland, and I have several times observed birds in that country which I now believe to have been of this species. A pair haunted the precipitous face of a hill near Butrinto in the winter months of 1857 and 1858, and were the terror of any vultures or other birds of prey which passed near their abode. They were generally to be observed in fine weather, soaring at a great height in the air, and swooping fiercely at any bird larger than a pigeon which ventured to linger in their neighbourhood. I have seen them drive away Vultures, Imperial and Spotted Eagles, Ravens, Crows, and even a Peregrine Falcon. They are at once distinguishable from every other species of Eagle with which I am acquainted by their falcon-like stoop, square-cut tail, and very shrill and piercing scream. I have been lying in wait in a thick reed-bed, watching the flocks of divers species of ducks, coots, and other water-birds which enliven the Albanian lakes and marshes, and have often remarked that whilst the said wild-fowl would take no notice whatever of the numerous Marsh-Harriers which

are perpetually hanging about the skirts of the lakes, and would merely lift their heads and utter a warning quack on the appearance of a Spotted Eagle,—immediately that one of these eagle-teasers (as we nicknamed the present species) was visible, the coots would rise and scutter into the reeds, the necks of the ducks would be extended flat along the surface of the water, and the incessant screaming of the waterhens and rails be hushed till the tyrant had passed over. I have twice seen this species settle upon and begin to devour mallards which I had wounded, and which flew to some distance before falling dead, but I never succeeded in getting a shot at the robbers. I have observed this species near Butrinto, as before mentioned, at Livitazza at the mouth of the Kalamas, and at Phanari at the mouth of the Acheron. I always observed it in pairs and haunting rocks near the marshes.

9. WHITE-TAILED EAGLE. (*Haliaëtus albicilla*.)

This species is often to be seen, though not abundant, in Epirus and Acarnania. A pair were almost always to be observed about the Bay of Butrinto in the autumn and winter. I watched a pair in February 1858 soaring and playing at a great height near the mouth of the Achelous on the mainland of Greece, about twenty miles east from the island of Ithaca. My Greek servant took two eggs of this species from a nest situate in the top of an old ash-tree in a wood on the banks of the Luro river, which runs into the Gulf of Arta, near the ruins of Nicopolis, and not far from the town of Prevesa: this was on the 17th of March, 1857. The old birds were very bold, and often came within gunshot of us; but I would not fire at them, as I did not want a specimen, and the shepherds begged us not to kill them, as they bred there year after year, and kept away other birds of prey which were destructive to their lambs. When my servant was within a few feet of the nest, a large snake put his head out of a hole and



hissed fiercely at him, but he having crossed himself and implored the aid of St. Spiridione, the patron of Corfu, went boldly on and took the eggs, which are now in the possession of Mr. Alfred Newton. All the birds of this species which I observed in Turkey and Greece were in adult plumage.

10. OSPREY. (*Pandion haliaëtus*.)

Appears in Corfu and Epirus in March and September in considerable numbers.

11. SHORT-TOED EAGLE. (*Circaëtus gallicus*.)

I saw a short-toed Eagle near Paleocastrizza in the island of Corfu, on the 7th of June, 1858. This was the only occasion on which I observed it in that part of Europe. I had previously become acquainted with this species near Tunis, and have since observed it, and obtained a specimen near Nice. I may here mention that I received a fine specimen of this bird alive from the Crimea in 1856. The favourite food of this individual was fish; and from what I have observed of the habits of these birds in a wild state, I should say that their food consists chiefly of reptiles and small fish, which they catch in the shallow lagoons and marshes. My bird was very fierce and untameable; and I have been informed by persons who have kept this species in captivity that it is generally wilder and more intractable than any other raptorial bird.

12. HONEY BUZZARD. (*Pernis apivora*.)

There is an immature specimen of this bird stuffed at Corfu, which was killed in the island by a friend of mine who has resided many years in the Ionian Islands and is fond of ornithology. He assured me it is the only one of this species that he ever saw, or heard of, either in the islands or in Albania. I saw a bird which I can assign to no other species, in an olive-grove near Prevesa in Epirus on the 21st of March, 1857.

13. COMMON BUZZARD. (*Buteo vulgaris*.)

This bird was very common in Corfu and Epirus during the early part of 1857. It disappeared about the end of February; and I did not see a Buzzard again till the 7th of November, 1858, when I killed a fine specimen in the island, about six miles from the town of Corfu. I saw very few, either in the island or on the mainland, during the ensuing winter, but I observed one near Govino in the island in June 1858. It frequents the olive-groves in the island and the old woods of the mainland. A pair haunted the citadel-rock of Corfu during the first winter I passed there.

14. PEREGRINE FALCON. (*Falco peregrinus*.)

Common in Epirus in winter, where it is of great assistance to the wild-fowl shooter. Occasionally breeds in the island of Corfu, where I have observed it near Pelleka in April 1857. The friend mentioned above as having shot the Honey Buzzard, assured me that in the island of Cerigo this Falcon is very abundant, and feeds almost entirely on insects! Can he have mistaken La Marmora's Falcon (*Hypotriorchis eleonoræ*) for this species?

15. HOBBY. (*Hypotriorchis subbuteo*.)

Common in Corfu in spring and autumn. I have an immature specimen which was shot by an officer of the 3rd Buffs on the roof of Fort Neuf Barracks at Corfu in April 1857. I saw a Hobby near Cetinje, the chief town of Montenegro, in August 1857.

16. MERLIN. (*Hypotriorchis aesalon*.)

Of frequent occurrence in Epirus during the winter months. I have seen a Merlin shot in the Val di Roppa, a marshy valley about seven miles from the town of Corfu, much frequented by sportsmen for snipe-shooting. All the Merlins that I saw, dead and alive, during my stay in Greek waters were in the adult male plumage. I have seen as many as five wounded snipes carried off by a bird

of this species in an hour's snipe-shooting near the mouth of the Butrinto river.

17. KESTREL. (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*.)

Not common, according to my observation, in Epirus and Corfu. I have seen one or two Kestrels in the island in April and May, and once shot one near Santa Quaranta in the winter of 1857.

18. LITTLE KESTREL. (*Tinnunculus cenchris*.)

Visits Corfu and the mainland in spring. I killed a specimen near Prevesa on the 20th of March 1857, and bought a good pair in the Corfu market in the month of April of the following year. This and the following species are seen in small flocks of from five to ten or twelve, and appear to feed exclusively on insects.

19. ORANGE-LEGGED HOBBY. (*Erythropus vesperinus*.)

Arrives in Corfu, occasionally in great numbers, about the latter end of April. In the spring of 1857 I did not hear of, or see, more than two specimens in the Corfu market; but in April 1858 this species was very abundant in the Ionian Islands, particularly at Fano, a small rocky island to the north of Corfu, celebrated as a favourite resting-place for immense flights of quails during their vernal migration. This Hawk appears to be very fearless of man. I have watched a flock of five or six for upwards of an hour, during which time they often approached within ten or fifteen yards of where I sat, though I was in no way concealed. As far as my own observation goes, this species only remains for a few days in Corfu on its passage northwards. I have never heard of its occurrence in the island except in April and May. The stomach of a specimen which I saw skinned contained the remains of large night-flying moths. Both this species and the Common Hobby are to be observed on the wing as late as 8 or 9 P.M. This bird often alights on the ground, and runs with great ease and speed.

20. GOSHAWK. (*Astur palumbarius.*)

Not very common. I have observed it twice only in Epirus: the first time near Kinouria, where it stooped at a woodcock which I had wounded; this was on the 29th of December, 1857; and again at Butrinto, on the 2nd of January, 1858. Both these were immature specimens. I saw a fine pair of Goshawks stuffed at Santa Maura in March 1857, which had been killed in that island not many weeks before. I am told that this species is common and breeds in Albania proper, Montenegro, and Bosnia, in which last province it is trained for taking hares. The Goshawk seems to be an object of special aversion to rooks, magpies, jays, &c., who will allow a buzzard, harrier, or falcon to remain unmolested in their haunts, but immediately pursue this species with loud cries, and every appearance of excessive hatred and defiance.

21. SPARROW HAWK. (*Accipiter nisus.*)

Very abundant in winter in Epirus, Aearnania, and Corfu. A few remain to breed.

22. KITE. (*Milvus regalis.*)

Not common in Epirus. I did not see a single specimen during the first winter that I passed among Greek Seas. I noticed a pair several times about Butrinto during the very severe frosts of December 1857 and January 1858, and found the species rather abundant in Aearnania in the last-named and following months. Among the fine oak forests in the neighbourhood of Tragamesti, a pair or two were generally to be seen, soaring in circles at a great elevation, and occasionally swooping down near the tree tops. The bird-stuffer at Corfu did not recognize this species by its Italian, Greek, or English names, and told me that he had never seen or heard of any hawk with a forked tail. The Greek shepherds in Aearnania, when we pointed out this species to them, said they had never before noticed it. From these



circumstances I think we may infer that this species is a rare and only occasional visitor to these parts, though it is very common and a constant resident in Sicily and Calabria.

23. MARSH HARRIER. (*Circus æruginosus*.)

Perhaps the most abundant of the *Raptores* in these parts. It seemed to be less common during the last winter than in the first which I spent in these countries; but from two to a dozen were almost always to be seen in every marsh in Epirus, Acarnania, Albania, and Corfu. Very few remain to breed in these parts, the main body making its appearance in the beginning of November and disappearing in March. I once counted twenty-six of these birds on the wing together near Butrinto.

24. HEN HARRIER. (*Circus cyaneus*.)

Common, and breeds in Corfu and Epirus.

25. MONTAGU'S HARRIER. (*Circus cineraceus*.)

Less common than the last species, but not rare in Epirus in winter. The great marsh of Livitazza is a favourite haunt of this Harrier.

26. BARN OWL. (*Strix flammea*.)

Common in the island of Corfu, where it breeds in the old fortifications about the town. I never saw or heard of this species on the mainland.

27. TENGMALM'S OWL. (*Nyctale tengmalmi*.)

I saw a skin of this Owl at Corfu, which I was assured had been shot in the island.

28. LONG-EARED OWL. (*Otus vulgaris*.)

Common in Corfu, haunting the thick coverts of *Arbutus* about Strangili, Govino, and Misonghi. I did not often observe this species on the mainland; I shot one, and saw four or five more on Mavronoros, a mountain near Livitazza in Epirus.

29. EAGLE OWL. (*Bubo maximus*.)

I very often heard, and occasionally saw, birds of this species in Epirus and Albania proper, in which provinces it is common, and breeds. One of our party killed a fine specimen near Prevesa, on the Gulf of Arta, in March 1857. I shot a female near Butrinto in February 1858, and was in at the death of another near Santa Quaranta shortly afterwards. I was watching a pair of Bonelli's Eagles one day near Butrinto, when an Eagle Owl came flying past me in a much more hurried manner than is its wont, and took refuge in a thorn-bush, about a gun-shot from where I stood. He had hardly reached this shelter before a Peregrine Falcon stooped at him, and, just missing him, rose, and "made her point." I drove the Owl out, and I was witness of a beautiful flight across an open plain of considerable extent; the Falcon making repeated feints, the Owl flying low, and dodging round the scanty thorn-bushes, till he at length reached a hill-side thickly covered with wild olives, amongst which he plunged, and set his pursuer at defiance. The Albanian and Greek specimens of this Owl which I have examined struck me as much lighter-coloured and rather smaller than those from Spain, Sicily, France, Germany, and Norway.

30. SHORT-EARED OWL. (*Otus brachyotus*.)

I saw two of this species near Prevesa in March 1857; and two or three were brought into the Corfu market in the latter part of the same month. I killed one at Butrinto in February 1858. The Corfu bird-stuffer told me that this Owl occasionally visits the island in March in great numbers.

31. LITTLE OWL. (*Athene noctua*.)

I believe this species to be a summer visitor to Epirus. We found it nesting in the ruins of Nicopolis in March 1857, and at Santa Quaranta in May. It is rare in Corfu.



32. SCOPS EARED OWL. (*Scops zorca.*)

Very common in Corfu during the summer months, arriving about the beginning of April, and breeding in the old olive-groves, which, from that time till the middle of October, resound with their melancholy and monotonous cry. The favourite food of a Scops Owl which I kept alive at Corfu for some months was the Humming-bird Moth, which abounds in the island in August and September. I observed one of this species in the island as late as the 17th November, 1857. I was gravely assured by a Spanish lady that this species and the Barn Owl enter the chapels and churches in Andalusia to drink the oil in the lamps which are kept burning in the shrines of the saints, and that it behoved all good Christians to slay them whenever they found them, adding, "Son las gallinas del demonio, Señor."

33. ASH-COLOURED SHRIKE. (*Lanius excubitor.*)

I observed this bird once in Montenegro, in August 1857.

34. GREAT SOUTHERN SHRIKE. (*Lanius meridionalis.*)

I shot a specimen of this bird in the island of Corfu on the 29th April, 1857. It is far from common in these parts. The Corfu bird-stuffer assured me that my bird was the only one he had ever seen.

35. ROSE-BREASTED SHRIKE. (*Lanius minor.*)

A rare summer visitor to the island of Corfu, where I obtained three specimens in May 1858. Abundant in Montenegro in August.

36. RED-BACKED SHRIKE. (*Enneoctonus collurio.*)

Arrives in Corfu in small numbers in April and remains to breed.

37. WOOD SHRIKE. (*Enneoctonus rufus.*)

Very abundant in all the islands in the summer months, arriving about the end of April, and breeding in the olive-groves.

38. RAVEN. (*Corvus corax*.)

Very common in Corfu and Epirus. A pair breed every year in the citadel rock of Corfu, and are annually robbed of their young by the soldiers. I observed small flocks of Ravens in September, haunting the Bay of Corfu, and particularly the island of Vido. I saw a Raven near Scutari, the capital of Albania proper, with white wings.

39. HOODED CROW. (*Corvus cornix*.)

An occasional winter visitor in Epirus, where I observed it near Prevesa, in March 1857. Common on the coasts of Albania proper in December; abundant in Montenegro in August. Apparently quite unknown in Corfu.

40. ROOK. (*Corvus frugilegus*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in immense numbers about the end of October, and disappears about the beginning of February.

41. JACKDAW. (*Corvus monedula*.)

Common in summer; in Epirus I have occasionally seen a single individual during the winter months.

42. MAGPIE. (*Pica melanoleuca*.)

Very common, and resident in Epirus and Corfu.

43. COMMON JAY. (*Garrulus glandarius*.)

Abundant, and breeds in Epirus and Corfu. I never could discover *Garrulus melanocephalus* in these parts, though I fancied that I sometimes saw, in the thorn coverts of Butrinto, a Jay larger than the common species. I found a Jay's nest built in a ruined fort near Butrinto, —a very unusual locality, I fancy, for this peculiarly thicket-loving species.

44. ALPINE CHOUGH. (*Pyrrhocorax alpinus*.)

I only once observed a pair of this species in Epirus; this was in May 1857, when I was chamois-hunting in the Aeroeeraunian Mountains, above Khimàra, about forty miles north of Corfu. I have since had many opportuni-

tics of observing closely the habits of this very graceful bird, in the mountains of Nice and Piedmont. Often, when I have been crouched behind a rock waiting for a shot at chamois, they would settle on a point of rock or ice within a few yards of me, and hop fearlessly about, occasionally whistling and chattering, as if to inquire of each other what possible business brought me up to their haunts. I was on one occasion surrounded by a party of about a dozen of this species, which kept up an incessant noise for about half an hour, when one of them suddenly turned his head towards the sky, uttered a very peculiar croak, and the whole party immediately crouched close down to the rocks and snow. I looked up, and a Golden Eagle came whizzing past me with wings nearly closed, in pursuit I think, of a Marmot: the Choughs immediately sneaked off, and paid me no more visits that day. I have seen a pair of these birds go through a sort of game of catchball with a small pebble, tossing it up from one to the other, and catching it in their bills. I have been informed on good authority that the Cornish Chough (*Fregilus graculus*) is not rare on Parnassus and the Pindus range, but I have never seen it in Turkey or Greece.

45. COMMON STARLING. (*Sturnus vulgaris*.)

This species visits Corfu and Epirus in October, and remains till about the middle of March. I observed immense flocks of Starlings near Port Platea in Acarnania in January 1858.

46. SARDINIAN STARLING. (*Sturnus unicolor*.)

I shot one of this species in Corfu in May 1857. This was the only instance in which I observed it in these parts.

47. ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR. (*Pastor roseus*.)

These beautiful birds arrive at Corfu, occasionally in great numbers, early in June, and haunt the orchards, feeding almost entirely on mulberries. In 1857 very few visited the island, and I only obtained one specimen; but

in June 1858, the mulberry gardens were full of them for some days, and I obtained specimens in abundance and in all their different states of plumage. As far as my own observation goes, they are not easily approached, and have the same habit as the Golden Oriole of remaining motionless amongst the thick foliage, allowing the tree in which they are concealed to be shaken, or beaten, without stirring. These birds remain only a few days on the island, and are well known to the Corfiote peasantry by the name of "Mulberry-catchers," *σκαμνοφάγοι*.

48. COMMON HOUSE SPARROW. (*Passer domesticus*.)

Resident, but not very abundant in Corfu and Epirus.

49. TREE SPARROW. (*Passer montanus*.)

I once observed a pair of this species near Ptelia in January 1857.

50. HAWFINCH. (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*.)

Common in winter in the thorn-coverts of Epirus. I have observed old nests in that country which I am pretty sure belonged to this bird, though I never saw it or heard of its occurrence there during the summer months.

51. CHAFFINCH. (*Fringilla cælebs*.)

Common in winter in Corfu and Epirus, arriving in October and disappearing in February or March. The sexes appear to keep apart, and the males are by far the most numerous.

52. ROCK SPARROW. (*Petronia stulta*.)

I observed several of these birds in the Acrocraunian mountains in May 1857, and in Montenegro in August of the same year.

53. GREENFINCH. (*Coccothraustes chloris*.)

Resident and very common in Corfu and Epirus.

54. SISKIN. (*Chrysomitris spinus*.)

Very abundant in Epirus in winter.

55. CITRON FINCH. (*Fringilla citrinella*.)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in summer. I cannot positively state whether it leaves the island in winter, but it is certainly less numerous than during the summer.

56. COMMON LINNET. (*Linota cannabina*.)

Very common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

57. GOLDFINCH. (*Carduelis elegans*.)

Common, and breeds in Corfu. I have not noticed it on the mainland, except in winter; it is then very common.

58. BULLFINCH. (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*.)

A rare winter visitor to Corfu and Epirus. Common in December in Albania Proper, about the mouth of the River Drin, where I observed it feeding on the berries of the Privet.

59. COMMON CROSSBILL. (*Loxia curvirostra*.)

I saw a pair of this species in a cage at Corfu, which I was assured had been brought from the pine-forests of the Black Mountain in Cephalonia. It is decidedly a rare bird in Corfu, though the bird-stuffer assured me he had occasionally seen it.

60. CIRC BUNTING. (*Emberiza cirrus*.)

Resident, but not very abundant, in Corfu.

61. ORTOLAN BUNTING. (*Emberiza hortulana*.)

This Bunting arrives in Corfu in April, and remains to breed. It is rather common. I never observed it in winter.

62. FOOLISH BUNTING. (*Emberiza cia*.)

I noticed this species only once in these parts. This was a single bird, seen near Paganica in January 1857.

63. COMMON BUNTING. (*Emberiza miliaria*.)

Occurs sparingly in Corfu and Epirus in winter.



64. REED BUNTING. (*Emberiza schœniclus.*)

Common in Epirus in winter, but less so than the next species.

65. MARSH BUNTING. (*Emberiza palustris.*)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in winter. A few remain to breed on the island.

66. BLACK-HEADED BUNTING. (*Emberiza melanocephala.*)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in great numbers in April, and remains to breed, disappearing in September; has an agreeable song. This bird is known in Corfu by the name of "Ortolano."

67. MISSEL THRUSH. (*Turdus viscivorus.*)

Not very common in Corfu and Epirus in the winter; more so in continental Greece.

68. FIELDFARE. (*Turdus pilaris.*)

I, on one occasion only, observed this species in these parts; this was near Kataito in Epirus, on the 23rd February, 1858.

69. SONG THRUSH. (*Turdus musicus.*)

Very common in winter in Corfu, Epirus, and Aear-nania, arriving in October and disappearing in April; a few, I think, occasionally remain to breed in Epirus.

70. REDWING. (*Turdus iliacus.*)

I have observed this bird occasionally in Epirus during the winter months.

71. RING OUSEL. (*Turdus torquatus.*)

I saw one of this species near Seutari, in Albania, about the middle of August 1857.

72. BLACKBIRD. (*Turdus merula.*)

Abounds in Corfu, Epirus, and Albania, in winter. I imagine, as in the case of the Song Thrush, that a few pairs breed in Epirus.



73. BLUE ROCK THRUSH. (*Monticola cyaneus*.)

Resident and very abundant in Corfu and Epirus, as in all parts of the Mediterranean shores which I have visited. A bird of this species, which I bought at Palermo, immediately attacked and devoured a Willow Wren which came on board our yacht in a gale off the south coast of Sicily in November 1856.

74. COMMON ROCK THRUSH. (*Monticola saxatilis*.)

Common in May 1857, among the Acrocraunian mountains, where I found the nests of this species, among *débris* carried down by the melting of the snows, on Isehika, one of the highest points of that range. I have once or twice observed the Rock Thrush in the Island of Corfu, where it is highly prized as a singing bird.

75. COMMON WHEATEAR. (*Saxicola ænanthe*.)

Arrives in Epirus in March; common during the summer months.

76. RUSSET WHEATEAR. (*Saxicola stapanina*.)

More abundant than the preceding species in Epirus during the summer.

## 77. EARED WHEATEAR.

This is the least common of the three species of Wheatear that I have observed in these parts. It arrives at the same time as the preceding.

78. WHINCHAT. (*Pratincola rubetra*.)79. STONE-CHAT. (*Pratincola rubicola*.)

Both these species are common in summer, and I have occasionally observed the latter in winter, in Corfu and Epirus.

80. ALPINE ACCENTOR. (*Accentor alpinus*.)

Common in the Acrocraunian mountains in May 1857.

81. HEDGE SPARROW. (*Accentor modularis*.)

Very common in Corfu in winter. I have observed one

or two individuals during the summer months, and seen some eggs (which I believe belonged to this species) taken in Epirus.

82. ROBIN REDBREAST. (*Sylvia rubecula*.)

Arrives in Corfu in great numbers about the end of October, and disappears in March. Not very abundant on the mainland.

83. BLUE-THROATED WARBLER. (*Sylvia cyanecula*.)

I only once saw a bird of this species in these parts; this was in the Val di Roppa, in Corfu, in April 1857.

84. COMMON REDSTART. (*Sylvia phænicura*.)

Arrives in March in small numbers, remaining, I think, only a few days.

85. BLACK REDSTART. (*Sylvia tithys*.)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in winter. A few remain to breed in the island.

86. WHITE WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla alba*.)

Common, and resident in Corfu; I have not observed it on the mainland except during the winter months.

87. GREY WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla boarula*.)

Common in winter in Corfu and Epirus.

88. GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla cinereocapilla*.)

Arrives in great numbers in Corfu about the middle of April, at which season it is to be found in small flocks in all the low meadows and maize-fields of the island. I never could find a nest of this species, though I have observed a few pairs during the whole summer.

89. BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla melanocephala*.)

Arrives with the above species, but in much smaller numbers, and only remains for a few days. The locality in which I have most frequently observed this bird was the marsh at the mouth of the Kataito river, near Butrinto in Epirus. They appear to be more arboreal in

their habits than the other Wagtails, and have a very distinct and peculiar note. The Corfu bird-stuffer told me, on my showing him one of this species, that he had never before observed it, and insisted that it was only a variety of the above; but there are slight differences of habits, flights &c., which at once distinguish it from that bird, were the plumage not at once sufficient to settle the question. To myself this species appears to resemble *Motacilla rayi* (which I have never observed in these parts) in all particulars more than any other of its congeners.

90. ROCK PIPIT. (*Anthus rupestris*.)

Common on the coasts of Epirus and Corfu.

91. MEADOW PIPIT. (*Anthus pratensis*.)

Very common in Corfu and Epirus in winter. A few are to be seen in the island at all seasons.

92. TREE PIPIT. (*Anthus arboreus*.)

Not common. I have now and then observed it in Corfu during the winter.

93. SKYLARK. (*Alauda arvensis*.)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in winter.

94. WOODLARK. (*Alauda arborea*.)

Common in winter in Corfu. A few remain to breed in the island.

95. CRESTED LARK. (*Galerida cristata*.)

Very common in all seasons in Corfu and Epirus.

96. CALANDRA LARK. (*Alauda calandra*.)

A few of this species are to be observed in summer in Corfu, where they breed. I have never observed this bird on the mainland.

97. SHORT-TOED LARK. (*Alauda brachydactyla*.)

Common in winter in Corfu and Epirus.

98. WHITE-NECKED FLYCATCHER. (*Muscicapa albicollis.*)

I observed several of these birds in May 1857 near Pelleka, in the island of Corfu.

99. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. (*Muscicapa grisola.*)

Common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

100. THRUSH WARBLER. (*Sylvia turdoides.*)

Common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

101. RUFOUS SEDGE WARBLER. (*Sylvia galactodes.*)

I twice observed this species in these parts; once in the island of Corfu, on which occasion a friend killed a fine specimen; and a few weeks afterwards near Kataito, in Epirus, where I watched a pair for some time, but refrained from shooting them, as my gun was loaded with large shot.

102. NIGHTINGALE. (*Sylvia luscini.*)

Very common in Corfu and all parts of the mainland that I have visited during the summer; at Delvino especially, in May 1857, we could hardly sleep for the multitude of Nightingales that were singing on the banks of a little stream that ran under the windows of the house in which we lodged.

103. OLIVE-GROVE WARBLER. (*Sylvia olivetorum.*)

I shot one of this species near Corfu in April 1857, and have seen the skin of another from Zante.

104. COMMON WHITETHROAT. (*Sylvia cinerea.*)

I have occasionally observed this bird in Corfu in September and October.

105. LESSER WHITETHROAT. (*Sylvia curruca.*)

I shot one of this species in Corfu in September 1857. This is the only instance in which it came under my notice in these parts.

106. SUBALPINE WARBLER. (*Sylvia subalpina.*)

A beautiful specimen of this pretty little bird was

brought to me by one of my yacht's crew, who had picked it up close to the lighthouse of Santa Maura, on the 24th of March, 1857. I have occasionally noticed this species in Epirus in February and March.

107. BLACK-HEADED WARBLER. (*Sylvia melanocephala*.)

Very common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus. I have found the nest of this species on the citadel rock of Corfu.

108. ORPHEAN WARBLER. (*Sylvia orphea*.)

Occasionally seen in spring, but decidedly not common in Corfu.

109. GARDEN WARBLER. (*Sylvia hortensis*.)

I found a nest of this bird, containing eggs, near Khimàra in Epirus, in May 1857. I do not remember to have noticed it in these parts on any other occasion.

110. WILLOW WREN. (*Phylloscopus trochilus*.)

I have occasionally seen this species in winter in the gardens in the vicinity of Corfu.

111. CHIFF-CHAFF. (*Phylloscopus rufus*.)

Common in Epirus in spring and summer. I have occasionally heard it in sunny weather in December.

112. WOOD WREN. (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.)

I picked up one of this species on the beach near Govino, in the island of Corfu, in March 1857. It is decidedly far from common in Corfu and Epirus.

113. SOUTHERN WILLOW WREN?

I have often seen, and once or twice killed, a Willow Wren in Epirus in winter, which I believe to be the *Hypolais salicaria* of Brehm. It certainly does not belong to any of the three preceding species. I always found a few of these birds among the tamarisks at the mouth of the Kataito river in Epirus, in December and January.

114. AQUATIC WARBLER. (*Calamodyta aquatica*.)

This species is to be found in considerable numbers, for



a few days about the beginning of May, on the banks of a reedy pond near Govino, about seven miles from Corfu. I never noticed it in any other locality, either in Corfu or on the mainland; but from the 2nd and 3rd till the 8th or 10th of May, 1857 and 1858, in the above-mentioned spot, it was very abundant. I could not observe a single individual after the 10th instant in either year, and searched in vain for their nest. This species is very common at Nice in August and September.

115. CETTI'S WARBLER. (*Calamodyta cetti.*)

This species occurs sparingly in Corfu in April. I do not think that it remains to breed.

116. FANTAIL WARBLER. (*Calamodyta cisticola.*)

Very common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

117. REED WARBLER. (*Calamodyta strepera.*)

Common in winter in Epirus and Acarnania.

118. COMMON WREN. (*Troglodytes europæus.*)

Common, and resident in Epirus. I have not noticed it in the island of Corfu, except during the winter.

119. SYRIAN NUTHATCH. (*Sitta syriaca.*)

Common in certain suitable localities in Epirus, particularly amongst the stony and precipitous hills near Santa Quaranta, where I have frequently observed it in small parties of five or six, flitting about and busily examining the holes and crevices of the rocks. It is a lively and restless bird, and has a note entirely different from that of the Common Nuthatch (*Sitta cæsia*). I never observed this bird to perch on a tree or shrub, but almost invariably found them on the most exposed and barren hillsides.

120. GREAT TITMOUSE. (*Parus major.*)

Occasionally seen in Corfu and Epirus in winter.

121. MARSH TITMOUSE. (*Parus palustris.*)

Common, and, I believe, resident in Epirus.



122. COLE TITMOUSE. (*Parus ater.*)

Occasionally seen in Corfu in winter.

123. BLUE TITMOUSE. (*Parus cæruleus.*)

Common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

124. LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE. (*Parus caudatus.*)

Common in winter in Epirus.

125. BEARDED TITMOUSE. (*Parus biarmicus.*)

I observed several of this species about the banks of the Lake of Seutari in Albania proper in August 1857.

126. PENDULINE TITMOUSE. (*Parus pendulinus.*)

Common in the great marshes at the mouth of the Acheron in Epirus in winter, and, I believe, resident there. It is curious that, though I am acquainted with many apparently equally suitable haunts for this species in Epirus, the above is the only locality in that country in which I have ever seen or heard of it.

127. GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN. (*Regulus cristatus.*)

Common in the evergreen coverts of Epirus in winter.

128. DIPPER. (*Cinclus aquaticus.*)

Common on the mountain-streams of Albania and Epirus.

129. GOLDEN ORIOLE. (*Oriolus galbula.*)

This species arrives in Corfu and Epirus about the middle of April, and is eagerly sought after by the ‘*cacciatori*’ for the market. I think very few remain to breed in the island; but I have often observed them on the mainland in May and June. I always found it very difficult to get a shot at these birds; for immediately they discover that they are pursued, they ensconce themselves in the thickest covert at hand, and nothing will induce them to quit it. They have, besides the musical whistle from which they take their French, Italian, Spanish, and Greek name, a very peculiar guttural chatter, which I

have often heard within a few yards, though I could not see the bird, or force it to take wing. In September they are very abundant in the gardens of Corfu, and are very fat and delicious eating. I never could obtain an adult specimen at that season; though I have seen dozens hanging up in the market, they were all birds of the year. I saw several of this species in Montenegro in August 1857.

130. HOUSE SWALLOW. (*Hirundo rustica*.)

Very common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

131. COMMON MARTIN. (*Hirundo urbica*.)

Common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

132. SAND MARTIN. (*Hirundo riparia*.)

Not very common in Epirus in summer.

133. ROCK SWALLOW. (*Hirundo rupestris*.)

Common, and resident in Epirus, haunting the high and precipitous mountains of the interior in summer, and coming down to the coast during the winter months.

134. COMMON SWIFT. (*Cypselus apus*.)

Common in Corfu in summer, but less so than the next species.

135. ALPINE SWIFT. (*Cypselus melba*.)

Arrives in May in great numbers in Corfu, and remains till the end of September. Several pairs breed annually in the citadel rock.

136. CUCKOO. (*Cuculus canorus*.)

Arrives in Corfu in small numbers in April, and remains a few days; occasionally seen on its return south in the early part of September. I once saw a Cuckoo on the mainland in July.

137. BLACK WOODPECKER. (*Picus martius*.)

I saw two specimens of this Woodpecker at Santa Maura, which I was assured had been killed on the Black Mountain of Cephalonia. I caught a glimpse of a bird,

which I believe to have been one of this species, in a wood near the mouth of the river Drin, in December 1857.

138. WHITE-RUMPED WOODPECKER. (*Picus leuconotus*.)

I killed two specimens of this bird in the woods about Butrinto, in the winter. It is not uncommon, but very wary, and difficult to shoot. Its note and general habits very much resemble those of *Picus major*.

139. LITTLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER. (*Picus minor*.)

Common in winter in the woods of Epirus.

140. GREEN WOODPECKER. (*Gecinus viridis*.)

I saw a Green Woodpecker near the mouth of the Drin in December 1857. This is the only instance in which this species came under my observation in these parts.

141. GREY-HEADED GREEN WOODPECKER. (*Gecinus canus*.)

I saw a fine specimen of this bird near Cetinje, in Montenegro, in August 1857; he settled on a tree close to me, and I watched him for several minutes, much regretting that I had not a gun.

142. WRYNECK. (*Yunx torquilla*.)

Not very common. I only twice observed it in Epirus; the first time in the great marsh at Phanari, in March 1857, and again near Kinouria, at the head of the Lake of Butrinto, in December of the same year. On the first occasion I mistook it for *Sylvia nisoria*, and pursued it through dense thickets of Tamarisk, till at last I succeeded in shooting it, and was greatly disappointed when it turned out to be nothing but a "Cuckoo's mate."

143. ROLLER. (*Coracias garrula*.)

Arrives in great numbers in Corfu about the middle of April; it only remains for a few days in the island, but breeds on the mainland. I found a nest in the walls of a ruined house at Delvino, in May 1857. The birds had quite lost their usual timidity, and flew round my head

chattering and screaming as I approached the nest, which I suspect was an old one of some other bird. This species is known to the *cacciatori* as "*Corvo marino*," and among the Greek peasantry as *Ἀλκοκορόνη*. I discovered another nest, in June 1857, in the banks of the Kataito River, near the village of Mursyah. In this instance, the nest was in a hole in the bank, and consisted of a few twigs, carelessly put together.

144. COMMON BEE-EATER. (*Merops apiaster*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in great numbers in April, and breeds in the latter country on the banks of the Kataito River, near Mursyah, and many other similar localities. In all the holes that we examined, the eggs were laid on the bare sand, without any attempt at a nest. I several times observed three, and once or twice four birds fly from the same hole. These birds leave the country as soon as the young are able to fly. I have never seen them later than the beginning of August. I observed also, in August 1858, on the banks of the Guadalquivir, near San Juan de Alfarache, where there is a large colony of this species, that, although the banks were mined in every direction, and exhibited signs of recent occupation, not a Bee-eater was to be seen.

145. COMMON KINGFISHER. (*Alcedo ispida*.)

Very abundant, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

146. HOOPOE. (*Upupa epops*.)

Very common in summer in Epirus, arriving about the 20th March, and leaving the country in September. I do not think that the Hoopoe breeds in the island of Corfu, though it is common there in March and August. I once found a nest of this bird in Epirus on the ground, under a large boulder on a stony hill-side, but the usual site for it in that country appears to be the hole of a tree.

147. COMMON NIGHTJAR. (*Caprimulgus europæus*.)

Arrives in small numbers in Corfu and Epirus in April,



but does not, I think, remain to breed. I found a small party of Nightjars at Paganía in September 1857.

148. RINGDOVE. (*Columba palumbus*.)

I noticed very large flocks of Wood-pigeons near Pharnari, in the plains through which the Acheron runs. This was in March 1857. I have occasionally seen a few in different parts of Epirus during the winter months, but it is not abundant in that province. I never saw it in Corfu.

149. STOCK-DOVE. (*Columba ænas*.)

Common about the shores of the Gulf of Arta in March 1857. I have seen single birds at all seasons of the year near Butrinto and Kataito, and once or twice in the island of Corfu.

150. ROCK-DOVE. (*Columba livia*.)

Very common, and resident on the coasts of Albania, Epirus, and Corfu. Near the mouth of the river Kalamos these birds breed on the bare rocks, after the manner of some of the Gulls. On the peninsula of Paganía there is a curious natural pit, some 60 or 70 feet in depth, frequented by this species in great numbers. In this, my servant (who was once lowered into it by a rope, for the purpose of foreing out the doves) had an encounter with a wild eat, which at last retreated into a side gallery and was lost sight of. On throwing stones down this pit a dozen or two of Doves, Blue Thrushes, Blackbirds, Little Owls, and Nuthatches (*Sitta syriaca*) would often dash out in confusion, with now and then a large Bat; and on one occasion a Peregrine Falcon. There are small colonies of Rock-doves in many parts of the coast of the island of Corfu, particularly at Paleocastrizza and near Porto Serpente.

151. TURTLE-DOVE. (*Columba turtur*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus early in April in great numbers, and remains to breed, disappearing about the end of August.



152. COMMON PHEASANT. (*Phasianus colchicus*.)

The only localities in which I have myself seen Pheasants in these parts, were, once on the Luro River, near Prevesa, in March 1857, on which occasion I only saw one, the bird having never previously been met with in that part of the country; and again, in December of the same year, in the forests near the mouth of the river Drin, in Albania, where it is comparatively common, and where several fell to our guns. In this latter locality the Pheasant's habitat seems to be confined to a radius of from twenty to thirty miles to the north, east, and south of the town of Alessio,—a district for the most part densely wooded, and well watered, with occasional tracts of cultivated ground, Indian Corn being apparently the principal produce, and forming, with the berries of the Privet (which abounds throughout Albania), the chief food of the present species. We heard many more Pheasants than we saw, as the woods were thick and of great extent, our dogs wild, and we lost a great deal of time in making circuits to cross or avoid the numerous small but deep streams which intersect the country in every direction. This species is particularly abundant on the shores of the Gulf of Salonica, about the mouth of the river Vardar; and I have been informed, on good authority, that Pheasants are also to be found in the woods of Vhrakori in Ætolia, about midway between the Gulfs of Lepanto and Arta.

153. GREEK PARTRIDGE. (*Perdix græca*.)

This is the Common Partridge of Epirus and the Ionian Islands; it is not very abundant in Corfu, where it is only to be met with on the ridge of San Salvador. The Greek Partridge haunts the stony hill-sides,—never, as far as my own observation goes, descending to the plain. It is not easy to make a good bag of these birds, even in localities where they are numerous, as the coveys disperse on being disturbed; and on alighting, each bird takes a line of its

own, and sets off running to the nearest covert, which in these parts generally consists of thick evergreen scrub, from which it is very difficult to flush them. In the Ionian Islands they are most abundant in Cephalonia, Santa Maura, Kalamo, Petala, Arkudi, and Meganisi. The flesh of this species is, to my taste, far superior to that of either of its congeners, *P. rubra* or *P. petrosa*.

154. GREY PARTRIDGE. (*Perdix cinerea*.)

This species is common in the cultivated plains of Albania proper, in which province I have seen and shot it near Antivari. In Epirus it is found in considerable numbers near Joannina, and in the plains of Arta. I have also heard of its occurrence in the neighbourhood of Avlona, about eighty miles north of the island of Corfu.

155. QUAIL. (*Coturnix vulgaris*.)

A few Quails remain the whole year in Corfu and Epirus; but great numbers arrive every year in April, and remain for a few days. On the little island of Fano especially, they sometimes at that season alight in incredible numbers, often only remaining a single night. I have occasionally met with good sport at Quails in the maize-fields of Epirus in September; these were chiefly young birds that had been bred in the country. A few are always to be found in winter on the grassy hills of the mainland opposite to Corfu, particularly on those near the little harbour of Paganía.

156. PIN-TAILED SAND-GROUSE. (*Pterodes alchata*.)

Three of this species flew across our bows towards the east, as I was going from Corfu to Malta, on board H.M.S. 'Coquette,' on the 1st August, 1858. We had just sighted Sicily when they passed us. I have never seen or heard of the occurrence of Sand-grouse in any part of Greece or European Turkey.

157. GREAT BUSTARD. (*Otis tarda*.)

A Great Bustard flew over my head one day in February

1858, as I was chasing Grebes in the Bay of Butrinto. This is the only occasion on which I saw this species in these parts; but I was shown some of the feathers of one which had been killed in Acarnania in March 1857; and in the following winter several were killed near Cape Papas, in the Morea, where they are not uncommon. Great numbers were brought into Athens in January 1858. The Great Bustard breeds in the Morea, in the vicinity of Tripolitza.

158. LITTLE BUSTARD. (*Otis tetrax*.)

I saw a Little Bustard in the island of Corfu in December 1856, and two more near Livitazza in Epirus in March 1858. It is far from common in these parts. I only saw one freshly killed specimen during my stay amongst Greek seas, which was shot at Livitazza in January 1857, by an officer of the garrison of Corfu. The bird-stuffer had never before seen a specimen.

159. COMMON PRATINCOLE. (*Glareola pratincola*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in considerable numbers in April, and remains a few weeks in the country. I have found that, though these birds are not easy to approach by walking straight at them, they will squat, if one makes a circuit round them, gradually lessening the distance, and will allow themselves to be nearly trodden upon before taking wing. Large numbers frequent the race-course at Corfu in April. The Corfiote name for this species is "*Pernice di mare*." The food of the Pratincole appears to consist almost exclusively of various species of beetles.

160. COMMON THICK-KNEE. (*Ædicnemus crepitans*.)

Occasionally visits Corfu and Epirus in April and May.

161. GOLDEN PLOVER. (*Charadrius plumialis*.)

Common in severe weather in Corfu and Epirus.

162. RINGED PLOVER. (*Charadrius hiaticula*.)

I observed this species occasionally at Butrinto in February and March.

163. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER. (*Charadrius minor*.)

Tolerably common in Corfu in April and May, particularly in the Val di Corissia and at Potamo, only remaining a few days in the island.

164. KENTISH PLOVER. (*Charadrius cantianus*.)

Common in Corfu and all suitable localities in Epirus during the winter months, disappearing about the middle of March.

165. PEEWIT. (*Vanellus cristatus*.)

Very abundant throughout the islands and mainland in winter. I never saw one of this species later than the beginning of March in these countries.

166. GREY PLOVER. (*Squatarola helvetica*.)

I occasionally saw this species in Corfu and Epirus, in January, February, and March 1857. Some specimens killed in the island in the latter month were in full breeding-plumage. I never saw the Grey Plover in large troops, but almost invariably in pairs or small parties of four or five individuals. This bird has a curious habit, which I do not recollect to have seen mentioned in any work on ornithology, of throwing somersaults in the air, in the same manner as the Tumbler Pigeon and Roller. I noticed this particularly in March 1857, on the Gulf of Arta, about the mouth of the Luro river, where a few of this species are generally to be seen.

167. TURNSTONE. (*Streptilas interpres*.)

A large flock of Turnstones flew past the ship as we were going to Antivari, in December 1857, on board H.M.S. 'Ariel.' I never observed this species in Greek waters on any other occasion.

168. OYSTER-CATCHER. (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*.)

Common on the shores of Corfu and Epirus for a few weeks in March and April.



169. Woodcock. (*Scolopax rusticola*).

So much has been said and written concerning the abundance of this species in these countries, that it is unnecessary for me to add to the mass of information already in print on the subject; but a few words on my own experience may not be out of place here. That part of the mainland which lies opposite to the island of Corfu, and which is usually called Albania, is, properly speaking, Epirus, of which Joannina is the capital, Albania proper being the contiguous province to the north. The country near the coast consists for the most part of rocky hills of moderate elevation, thickly overgrown in most places with long grass, and various species of evergreen scrub and thorn bushes. The valleys are marshy, cultivated in some parts and in others more or less covered with woods of alder, poplar, oak, plane, sycamore, willow, &c., and in many places a thick undergrowth of blackthorn, briars, sedge, reeds, &c.; the fields are also dotted with patches of tamarisk, thorn, and briars, and intersected by numerous small streams. The Woodcocks generally begin to arrive about the 10th of November, their numbers depending on the state of the weather, and in a good season are to be found in abundance from that time till the 15th of March. I arrived at Corfu on the 24th of December, 1856; the weather was then, and had been for some weeks, very stormy and unsettled; heavy rains had turned the valleys into lakes, and everyone told us that Woodcocks were not to be found. For some days the weather was so bad that it was useless to attempt an expedition to the mainland, and we contented ourselves with wandering about the beautiful arbutus-coverts of the island, occasionally finding a Snipe or two in the low grounds, and hearing of, but very seldom seeing, a Woodcock. At last we could stand it no longer, but sailed about one A.M., on the 5th of January, from Corfu, and on waking about seven A.M. found ourselves snugly at anchor in the well-known bay



of Butrinto. We went ashore, and waded through about two miles of thorn-covert, and had what appeared to me very fair sport, till the rain came down in torrents, and drove us back to our yacht. We were three guns, and our bag at one P.M. contained 21 Woodcocks, 2 Snipes, 1 Water Rail, 1 Little Gull, 1 Common Buzzard, 1 Marsh Harrier, 3 Sparrow-Hawks, 1 Barred Woodpecker, and 1 Red-crested Whistling Duck. My companions complained bitterly, saying that it was not worth the trouble of coming over for such a paltry bag, and vowing that they would put up their guns till the weather improved. Now it struck me that the Woodcocks had been flooded out of the wood which we had beaten, and would probably be found on the hills in thicker covert, where they could avoid the drip of the trees; and so it proved, as on the next expedition in which I joined, on which occasion we were bent on the slaughter of Wild Boars and Roedeer, we flushed great numbers of Woodcocks on the hill-sides, in the steepest places and most impenetrable thickets. Forty and fifty couple of Woodcocks had been killed in November 1856, on several occasions, by two guns. The weather improved about the beginning of February 1857, and the Cocks came down again into the valleys, where we allowed them but little peace, and used to bag from ten to fifteen couple frequently, till the end of March, when they left the country. To myself, the great charm of shooting in these countries consists in the variety of birds to be observed, and the power of roaming about in every direction, through a beautiful country, without let or hinderance. To show in some degree the variety of sport to be met with, I subjoin a few extracts from my game-book. Our party consisted generally of myself and two friends. February 8th, 1857, 24 Woodcocks, 1 Hare, 2 Bitterns, 1 Marten Cat;—9th, 20 Woodcocks, 2 Golden-eyes, 1 Snipe;—10th, 38 Woodcocks, 1 Hare, 4 Snipes;—26th, 14 Woodcocks, 5 Teal, 3 Snipes, 1 Hare, 1 Water Rail;—March 5th, 31

Woodcocks, 1 Otter, 1 *Picus leuconotus*;—11th, 2 Woodcocks, 1 Duck, 1, Teal, 1 Garganey, 1 Snipe.

The above sport, with the exception of the 10th of February, occurred in the valley of Vrana, from the anchorages of Butrinto, Kataito, and Paganía: on the 10th of February we shot from Santa Quaranta. In the Gulf of Arta, from about the 14th to the 18th of March, our party of five bagged 204 head, including 2 Roedcer, about 80 Woodcocks, 12 Hares, Wild Ducks, Shovellers, Teal, Garganey, 3 Wood Pigeons, Gadwall, Pochard, Tufted Duck, 1 Solitary Snipe, Common and Jack Snipes, Bitterns, Grey Plover, Water Rails, Spotted Rails, Black-tailed Godwits, Coots, Grebes, 1 Eagle-Owl, 1 Short-eared Owl, Greenshanks, Redshanks, and Dunlin. I only quote the above extracts to show the sort of sport to be met with in a season which I was assured was the worst for Woodcocks in the recollection of "the oldest inhabitant."

The next season, a very severe one, was much better, but was not reckoned anything very remarkable. My companion and I then devoted our energies chiefly to the pursuit of wild-fowl, and met with tolerable success. To return to the habits of what I once heard an auctioneer term "that popular bird the Woodcock" (he was offering its eggs for sale), it arrives in Corfu generally a week before it makes its appearance on the mainland, and fair sport may there be met with for a few days, in the arbutus-coverts of Strangili, Govino, and Mesonghi. I must now wind up my long digression from the "scientific descriptions of birds," to which we have been informed the 'Ibis' is chiefly devoted, and in conclusion strongly recommend any lover of sport, for its own sake, to spend a winter in Greek waters, and in wet weather to try the hills about Butrino, Kataito, and Tre Scoglic; in bright frosts, the old woods in the valley of Vrana, from Butrinto to Paganía; and in all weathers, Santa Quaranta, Phanari, and

the Gulf of Arta; to wear the strongest jean he can procure, lined with flannel; and, above all, to be uniformly courteous and civil to the natives, who can, and occasionally will be of great service to those who treat them kindly.

170. SOLITARY SNIPE. (*Scolopax major*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in small numbers in March, remaining about a month in the low-lying maize-fields and vineyards; a few are always to be met with at that season in the Val di Roppa. I have occasionally killed this species in Epirus in September.

171. COMMON SNIPE. (*Scolopax gallinago*.)

Very common in all the marshes of the mainland and the islands, from September to the end of March. In the months of October and November 1857, it was no unusual occurrence for two good shots to bag from fifty up to a hundred couple of Snipes in two days' shooting, in the great marshes of Santa Quaranta. Eighty couple of Snipes were killed in one day, some years ago, at Butrinto, by a gentleman well known at Corfu as the keenest of sportsmen and one of the best of shots. From ten to twenty couple may often be killed in the Val di Roppa, about seven miles from the town of Corfu.

172. JACK SNIPE. (*Scolopax gallinula*.)

Common, but less so, in proportion to the number of the preceding species, than in any country that I know.

173. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. (*Limosa melanura*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter. More common on the Gulf of Arta than in any other locality with which I am acquainted.

174. BAR-TAILED GODWIT. (*Limosa rufa*.)

Not common; occasionally seen in September at Butrinto.

175. PIGMY CURLEW. (*Tringa subarquata*.)

Occurs at Corfu, occasionally in great numbers, and generally in full breeding-plumage, about the end of May.

176. DUNLIN. (*Tringa alpina*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter in Epirus and the islands.

177. LITTLE STINT. (*Tringa minuta*.)

Rather common in April and May, particularly on the race-course of Corfu, which is an excellent locality for birds of many species at various seasons. I never shot a specimen of *Tringa temminckii* in this part of the world; but I feel no doubt about having once or twice seen it in company with the present species, on the race-course above-mentioned.

178. SANDERLING. (*Calidris arenaria*.)

Rare; the bird-stuffer brought me three specimens in the spring of 1858, to ask what they were. These were the only birds of this species that came under my observation during my stay at Corfu.

179. RUFF. (*Machetes pugnax*.)

In large flocks on the spit of low land opposite Prevesa, at the entrance of the Gulf of Arta, in March 1857, in company with the Black-tailed Godwits. Not uncommon in Corfu at the same season. These birds, although usually rather difficult of approach, may be obtained in great numbers by tying a bright-coloured handkerchief on to a stick, and concealing one's self near it. Bright colour seems to have some invincible attraction for them, and they will fly round, and dart down at the object of their curiosity, regardless of repeated shots, and the consequent diminution of their numbers.

180. COMMON SANDPIPER. (*Tringoides hypoleuca*.)

Common at almost all seasons on the rocky parts of the coasts of Epirus and Corfu.



181. GREENSHANK. (*Totanus glottis*.)

Occurs in small numbers in Epirus and Corfu in winter and early spring.

182. MARSH SANDPIPER. (*Totanus stagnatilis*.)

Abundant in March, April, and the early part of May, on the race-course of Corfu. The habits of this species closely resemble those of the Green Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*), but it is less shy, and not so clamorous. I have had excellent opportunities of observing closely the habits of this and many other allied species on the race-course, having sometimes seen within a few yards of the spot on which I lay hidden, *Totanus glottis*, *T. stagnatilis*, *T. glareola*, *T. ochropus*, *Himantopus melanopterus*, *Tringa minuta*, *Numenius phaeopus*, and *Glareola pratincola*.

183. WOOD SANDPIPER. (*Totanus glareola*.)

Common, but less so than the above, at the same season, and in the same locality.

184. GREEN SANDPIPER. (*Totanus ochropus*.)

Common from the beginning of September till the end of May, and occasionally seen in June and July in Corfu and Epirus. This and the following species are great enemies to the snipe-shooter, as they are for ever flying round the marshes, and indulging in shrill screams and extraordinary aërial evolutions, thereby alarming many an honest *Scolopax* who is digesting his worms of the previous night, and would, without the uncalled-for interference of these noisy cousins, fall a prey to the sportsman.

185. REDSHANK. (*Totanus calidris*.)

A great deal too common, for the reasons mentioned above, in winter and early spring, in Corfu and Epirus.

186. CURLEW. (*Numenius arquatus*.)

Very abundant from October till April; a few may be occasionally observed at all seasons. I have several



times seen Curlews at Corfu, exactly like the common species in plumage, weight, and all other respects, except the bill, which was from half an inch to two inches longer than usual. As far as I could ascertain, this difference had no reference to sex or age; the long-bills and short-bills flocked together, and had precisely the same habits. I never observed this difference in any other part of the world, though the Curlew has always been a favourite object of pursuit with me, and a great many have consequently passed through my hands.

187. WHIMBREL. (*Numenius phaeopus.*)

Occurs sparingly in April and September in Corfu and Epirus.

188. SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW. (*Numenius tenuirostris.*)

Two specimens only of this bird came under my observation at Corfu; both were killed on the race-course in September 1857. I obtained a good specimen at Nice in the winter of 1858.

189. AVOCET. (*Recurvirostra avocetta.*)

I was shown a specimen of this bird in December 1856, which had been killed a few days previously at Butrinto, and I once or twice heard of others, but never saw one alive myself in these parts.

190. BLACK-WINGED STILT. (*Himantopus melanopectus.*)

Common on the shores of Corfu and Epirus in March, April, and May; generally to be seen in small flocks, standing mid-leg in water, and snapping at the midges and other small insects. This species breeds in great numbers in the marshes of Dalmatia, in the neighbourhood of Spalatro.

191. PURPLE HERON. (*Ardea purpurea.*)

Common in April and May, and, I believe, breeds in Epirus, as young birds are often to be seen in July and August.

192. COMMON HERON. (*Ardea cinerea*.)

Common in Corfu and all parts of the mainland in winter. I observed it in August in Albania and Montenegro.

193. GREAT WHITE HERON. (*Ardea alba*.)

Common in Epirus in winter, particularly at Butrinto. Not nearly so difficult of approach as most of its congeners, although I never observed it to skulk amongst the reeds and aquatic herbage, as the Purple Heron often does. I could not find out that it ever remains to breed in Epirus; but the natives are so singularly unobservant of all birds except the *Anatidæ*, that it is difficult to extract any information from them.

194. LITTLE EGRET. (*Ardea garzetta*.)

Very common in winter on the coasts of Epirus, in which province some few remain to breed. I observed this species on the Bojana river, and the Lake of Scutari in Albania, in great numbers in August 1857. The birds of this species which frequent the shores of the Bay of Butrinto in the winter, and spend the day in wading about the marshes, collect their forces regularly about sunset, and fly in a compact body to the jungles at the head of the lake, where they roost. They appeared to pursue exactly the same course every evening; and I used always to consider their appearance in a body as a sign that it was time to take up my post for shooting Ducks in a small marshy pool between the proper right of the Butrinto river and the rocks which shut in the valley to the north. The Egrets almost invariably flew over this pool from west to east, and generally preceded the arrival of the first flight of Ducks by about ten minutes.

195. SQUACCO HERON. (*Ardea comata*.)

Arrives in great numbers in Epirus in March, and I believe breeds in the marshes in the interior. Very abundant on the Lake of Scutari in August 1857. I found

this species the most difficult of approach of any of the *Ardeidae*.

196. BUFF-BACKED HERON. (*Ardea bubulcus*.)

I saw a stuffed specimen of this bird at Corfu, which was killed at Butrinto; and I think I may speak pretty positively to having once seen two specimens on the race-course in April 1857.

197. NIGHT HERON. (*Ardea nycticorax*.)

Tolerably common in Epirus, arriving in Mareh, and remaining only a short time on its passage northwards. Common on the Lake of Scutari in August, where it doubtless breeds.

198. COMMON BITTERN. (*Botaurus stellaris*.)

Common in Epirus from October till May. Its abundance or scarcity seems to depend on the severity of the weather. I do not think the Bittern breeds in Epirus, at all events not in those parts of that province with which I have any acquaintance, but it is found throughout the year in some of the marshes of Albania and Dalmatia.

199. LITTLE BITTERN. (*Ardetta minuta*.)

Arrives in considerable numbers in Corfu and Epirus in April, and remains to breed, leaving the country about the end of September. In Corfu they are often to be found perched in the olives near the marshes, motionless, with outstretched neck, and beak pointing to the sky. More than once I have caught this species with my hand; and my old retriever often brought me Little Bitterns alive, in the marshes of Butrinto, where I have found the nest in a tamarisk a few inches above the water. The curious habits of this species make it an interesting pet, though I have not found it easy to keep it alive for any length of time. All the birds of this species from Holland, which I have at different times procured in Leadenhall Market, were more or less injured about the eyes.

200. WHITE STORK. (*Ciconia alba*.)

Arrives in Epirus in Mareh, and breeds on the house-tops. Two pairs nested and reared their young annually on the top of the old fort, known as the Agas house, at Butrinto. The Mahomedan population proteet the Stork, and consider it a bird of good omen.

201. BLACK STORK. (*Ciconia nigra*.)

This species is very rare in these parts. The bird-stuffer at Corfu told me that two speeimens only had passed through his hands in the course of thirty years. One of these was killed at Butrinto, and the other in the island of Corfu.

202. GLOSSY IBIS. (*Falcinellus igneus*.)

Ooeurs tolerably abundantly in Corfu and Epirus in Mareh, April, and May. The only locality in which I have myself seen this species is the often-mentioned rae-e-course, where a pair were generally to be found in the months above-named, keeping aloof from the other Waders, and stalking about after the manner of the Herons.

203. CRANE. (*Grus cinerea*.)

Often to be heard and seen, passing over Corfu at a great elevation, in the months of Mareh and Oetober. The only spot in these parts in which I have seen this species on the ground was on the Greek frontier, opposite Prevesa, where I fell in with a troop of several hundreds in Mareh 1857. I saw a freshly-killed specimen in a ditch near Corfu on the 2nd of April, 1857.

204. WHITE SPOONBILL. (*Platalea leucorodia*.)

Ooeurs sparingly in Epirus in severe winters. I saw a few at Livitazza in January 1858. More eommon in Greeee—about Petalà and the Gulf of Lepanto. I could not hear of the oeeurrence of this species in the island of Corfu.

205. FLAMINGO. (*Phœnicopterus antiquorum*.) (?)

I plaee a mark of interrogation after the name of this

bird, as I have never seen it myself in these parts; but the Corfu bird-stuffer described to me a bird which had been killed out of a small flock on the race-course, some years previous to my arrival in Corfu, which must have been a Flamingo. It struck me as curious that this species should be so rare in these parts, as it is abundant in Tunis and Sardinia, and not uncommon in the south of Spain, in all which localities I have myself seen it. I have been assured that the Flamingo occurs in great numbers in winter in the island of Cyprus.

206. COMMON COOT. (*Fulica atra.*)

Common, and resident in Epirus.

207. MOOR-HEN. (*Gallinula chloropus.*)

Common in winter in Epirus. I believe a few of this species breed in that province.

208. SPOTTED CRAKE. (*Crex porzana.*)

Common at all seasons in Epirus, but more so in September and October than at any other time.

209. LITTLE CRAKE. (*Crex pusilla.*)

The Corfu bird-stuffer had a specimen of the Little Crake, which was killed at Butrinto. I once flushed a small Crake there in September 1857, which was either of this species or a *Crex baillonii*.

210. LAND RAIL. (*Crex pratensis.*)

Occurs sparingly in Corfu in April and September.

211. WATER RAIL. (*Rallus aquaticus.*)

Very common, and, I believe, resident in Epirus.

212. CRESTED GREBE. (*Podiceps cristatus.*)

Common in winter on the lakes and lagoons of Epirus.

213. RED-NECKED GREBE. (*Podiceps rubricollis.*)

Rare; occasionally occurs in winter at Butrinto.

214. SCLAVONIAN GREBE. (*Podiceps cornutus.*)

Not uncommon in winter on the lakes of Butrinto.



215. EARED GREBE. (*Podiceps auritus*.)

Very abundant on the lakes and lagoons of Epirus in winter. I believe a few pairs breed among the reeds at the head of the great lake of Butrinto. This species appears to be the most gregarious of the Grebes.

216. LITTLE GREBE. (*Podiceps minor*.)

Common in Winter in Epirus.

217. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. (*Colymbus glacialis*.)

I once unsuccessfully chased four Divers on a small lake at Butrinto, which from their great size must, I think, have belonged to this species.

218. RED-THROATED DIVER. (*Colymbus septentrionalis*.)

Occurs sparingly on the coasts of Epirus and Albania in winter. One of our party killed an immature specimen at the mouth of the River Drin, in the latter province, in December 1857.

219. GREY-LAG GOOSE. (*Anser ferus*.)

Common in February 1858, on the west coasts of continental Greece, about Petalà and the plains of the Ache-loüs, where we shot several. I have seen Wild Geese in most parts of Epirus and Albania that I have visited, but could not make out whether they belonged to this, or either of the following species.

220. BEAN GOOSE. (*Anser segetum*.)

Common in winter on the coasts of Epirus and Greece, particularly at Petalà. We used to take up a position on one of the numerous small islands which skirt the little Gulf of Petalà to the north, and had very good sport at wild-fowl of all sorts. The Geese did not come within shot much before dark, but Mallards, Shovellers, Wigeon, Pintail, Teal, Poehard, and Tufted Ducks kept us pretty busy during the day. We did not fire at Golden-eyes, Smews, &c., and when such birds passed us, used merely to exclaim to one another, "Muek." On one occasion

we were much excited by the evolutions and music of a small flock of Wild Swans, which, however, declined our acquaintance. Pelicans also would often flap heavily within a few yards of us, totally regardless of green cartridges and B.B. shot. My companion would not shoot at any Ducks whenever there appeared to be a chance of our getting a shot at Geese; but we nevertheless contrived to load ourselves to that degree, that wading through the mud to our boat became a feat by no means easy of accomplishment. The present species was the most common of the three *Anseres* that presented themselves to our guns at Petalà, and I am disposed to think that it is the most abundant of its family in Greece and Turkey; it is far superior for the table to either of the other species. Our bag at Petalà I find to have been as follows:—

February 5th, on the island above mentioned: 2 Bean Geese, 1 White-fronted Goose, 1 Grey-lag Goose, 14 Wild Ducks, 4 Wigeon, 1 Teal.

February 6th, in the plains of the Acheloüs: 14 Wild Ducks, 7 Teal, 2 Gadwalls, 2 Shovellers, 1 Pintail, 1 Pochard, 1 Tufted Duck, 1 White-eyed Duck, 1 Quail, 2 Black-tailed Godwits, 7 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

February 7th, on our island: 2 Bean Geese, 3 White-fronted Geese, 1 Grey-lag Goose, 16 Wild Ducks, 3 Wigeons, 1 Spoonbill.

February 8th, on the plains of the Acheloüs: 1 Grey-lag Goose, 2 White-fronted Geese, 9 Wild Ducks, 6 Teal, 2 Shovellers, 3 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

I do not mention this as anything extraordinary, as much more has, I have no doubt, often been done in the same localities, but the above extracts will help to show the variety of sport to be met with in these parts in severe winters; and if any reader of the 'Ibis' should be induced by these facts to try his luck in Greek waters, and should enjoy himself half as much as I did, I shall

think that our sport has not been recorded in vain. I consider, with Burns, that some of "the happiest hours that e'er I spent were spent amongst the rushes;" although the adjunct to this happiness mentioned by the poet was in our case absent, unless my old retriever can be considered to have in some degree supplied that defect.

221. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. (*Anser albifrons*.)

Common in winter in Epirus and continental Greece.

222. POLISH SWAN. (*Cygnus immutabilis*.)

Not uncommon in Corfu and Epirus in severe winters. Several were shot in the island in January 1858.

223. HOOPER. (*Cygnus musicus*.)

The same remarks apply to this as to the above. It is perhaps the less common species of the two.

224. WILD DUCK. (*Anas boschas*.)

This species actually swarms in winter in some of the marshes of Epirus and Albania. The best localities with which I am acquainted for wild-duck-shooting are, Butrinto, Phanari, the Luro river in the Gulf of Arta, Livitazza, and last, but by no means least, the great marshes between Santa Quaranta and Delvino. As I have before mentioned, my friend and usual companion, Colonel C——, and I, during the severe weather of 1857–58, devoted ourselves almost exclusively to the pursuit of the *Anatidæ*, often allowing Woodcocks to rise at our feet without further notice than an exclamation from one to the other—"O, don't shoot that carrion," and treating Snipes with the most supreme contempt. Perhaps the best sport of all sorts to be had within easy distance of Corfu is at Santa Quaranta, where Wild Boars, Roes, Hares, and Woodcocks are plentiful in the thickets and ravines among the hills, and wild-fowl of all kinds and Snipes are generally to be found in myriads. Besides this, the above locality

has the ornithological recommendation of being the haunt of *Aquila imperialis*, *A. navia*, *A. bonellii*, *Strix bubo*, *Falco aesalon*, and (I have now reason to believe) *F. lanarius*. Few parts of the great marsh are impenetrable to a determined sportsman, who of course must be prepared to wade, with the water seldom below his knees, and often up to his middle, the safest place for his powder-flask being the top of his hat. In my opinion, the sport amply repays any amount of fatigue or cold; and from the marsh of Santa Quaranta there is a rough walk of about two miles to the anchorage, which will serve to restore circulation. I cannot resist again giving some extracts from my 'game-book,' with reference to this well-beloved spot:—

On the 15th of January, 1858, we were a party of five, and shot the hill-sides for Woodcocks. We bagged 64 Woodcocks and 1 Snipe.

On the 16th four of our party took to the Snipe-marsh, and the other, in search of Woodcocks, to the fern-clad banks of the small river which separates the hills from the plain. The result of our combined exertions was, 100 Snipes, 11 Wild Ducks, 16 Teal, 26 Woodcocks, 9 Quails.

On the 20th Colonel C—— and I spent the day in the great marsh, and bagged 27 Wild Ducks, 15 Teal, 1 Pintail, 6 Woodcocks, 1 Hare.

21st January. We were a party of six, and shot for Woodcocks. Our bag contained at the end of the day, 81 Woodcocks, 8 Wild Ducks, 2 Teal, 2 Hares.

22nd January. Two guns in the great marsh. Bagged 12 Wild Ducks, 18 Teal, 1 Pochard, 1 Sheldrake.

The greatest amount of wild-fowl killed in one day during the above winter was by a party of three, on the Luro river, about the beginning of February. They brought to the yacht 107 head of Ducks of various species and two Wild Geese. A good many Wild Ducks breed in Epirus and Albania. In the Acherusian marsh at Phanari, without exaggeration, they literally darkened the air;

but this is not a very good shooting locality, as the best portion of the marsh for Ducks is utterly impenetrable to man or dog, and may, for aught I know, contain Hippopotami, Alligators, or Whale-headed Storks !

225. TEAL. (*Anas crecca*.)

Very abundant in winter, arriving about the end of September and disappearing in March.

226. MARBLED DUCK. (*Anas marmorata*.)

I saw a boy at Butrinto with a mutilated specimen of this rare Duck in his hand, which he had just killed on the lake ; he said it was alone when he shot it. I once flushed three Ducks at Phanari, which puzzled me very much at the time, but which, I have now little doubt, belonged to this species ; and an officer of the garrison of Corfu described to me a small Duck he had killed near Arta, which I think can have been no other but this. The Marbled Duck is not uncommon in the island of Sardinia, and very common at Tunis in January and February.

227. GARGANEY. (*Anas querquedula*.)

Appears in great numbers about the end of February in Epirus and Corfu ; remains till April. I think a few pairs breed in the country.

228. WIGEON. (*Anas penelope*.)

Abundant in winter, particularly at Livitazza.

229. GADWALL. (*Anas strepera*.)

Common in winter ; the easiest of approach, and by far the best for the table, of the European *Anatidæ*.

230. PINTAIL. (*Anas acuta*.)

Tolerably common in winter, but very wary, and difficult to kill.

231. SHOVELLER. (*Anas clypeata*.)

Common in winter.



232. SHELDRAKE. (*Tadorna vulpanser.*)

Appears in small numbers in severe winters.

233. RUDDY SHELDRAKE. (*Tadorna rutila.*)

Very rare. Two instances only of the occurrence of this species came to my knowledge during my stay at Corfu. The bird-stuffer brought me a beautiful specimen on the 17th April, 1857. It was killed at Potamò, about two miles from the town of Corfu. Another was killed at Santa Maura about the same time. The bird-stuffer had never seen this species before.

234. COMMON SEOTER. (*Oidemia nigra.*)

I saw a few of this species out at sea in the Adriatic, off Antivari, in December 1857. It is unknown at Corfu.

235. WHITE-HEADED DUCK. (*Erismatura mersa.*)

Common, and, I believe, resident on the lake of Butrinto and on the lagoons of Nicopolis.

236. GOLDEN EYE. (*Clangula glaucion.*)

Not uncommon in winter.

237. TUFTED DUCK. (*Fuligula cristata.*)

Very common in winter.

238. SCAUP DUCK. (*Fuligula marila.*)

I only saw one pair of this species in Greek waters. This was at Livitazza in January 1858.

239. POCHARD. (*Fuligula ferina.*)

Very common in winter.

240. WHITE-EYED POCHARD. (*Fuligula nyroca.*)

Arrives generally in March in small numbers, and breeds in Epirus and Albania. Occasionally seen in winter, but far from common at that season.

241. RED-CRESTED WHISTLING DUCK. (*Fuligula rufina.*)

This species was common at Butrinto during the first winter I passed at Corfu, but I saw very few in the succeeding one.

242. GOOSANDER. (*Mergus merganser.*)

An uncertain and rare visitor in Epirus.

243. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. (*Mergus servator.*)

Not uncommon in winter in Epirus, Albania, and Corfu.

244. SMEW. (*Mergus albellus.*)

Common in Epirus in February and March, in immature plumage. Very few adult males are to be seen in these parts.

245. CRESTED PELICAN. (*Pelecanus crispus.*)

Common throughout the year on the coasts of Epirus : breeds at Sultanieh, on the Gulf of Arta.

246. WHITE PELICAN. (*Pelecanus onocrotalus.*)

Passes over Corfu to the south in enormous numbers, at the beginning of November. A few remain about the coasts of Epirus throughout the winter.

247. GREAT CORMORANT. (*Carbo cormoranus.*)

Not uncommon in winter on the coasts of Epirus.

248. CRESTED SHAG. (*Carbo desmarestii*?)

A Shag is common at all seasons in the Ionian and Adriatic Seas ; but, after pretty careful examination and comparison with Temminck's description, I am quite unable to state whether it is our common species, or the variety known as *Carbo desmarestii*. It is more than probable that I have seen specimens of both.

249. DWARF SHAG. (*Carbo pygmaeus.*)

Very abundant in winter in Epirus ; appears to have no particular preference for salt water to fresh, as it is often to be found in ditches and flooded meadows far from the sea. I saw this species in Albania in August 1857.

250. HERRING GULL. (*Larus argentatus.*)

Common in immature plumage. I have only seen two individuals in the adult dress. The commonest large Gull

at Corfu exactly resembles this species in plumage, size, colour of naked parts, length of tarsi, &c.; in short, in every particular except that the primaries, in at least a dozen specimens that have come under my observation, are entirely white. This variety or species breeds on the coasts of Epirus, Tre Scoglie, Livitazza, &c.

251. COMMON GULL. (*Larus canus*.)

Not uncommon in winter in Corfu and Epirus. I saw one of this species pursue, capture, and devour a Redshank at Petalà, in February 1858.

252. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. (*Larus fuscus*.)

Not common; occurs occasionally in immature, but is very rare in adult plumage.

253. AUDOUIN'S GULL. (*Larus audouinii*.)

A fine specimen of this Gull was killed near Corfu in May 1857. I never saw it on any other occasion, although I am tolerably sure it is not very uncommon.

254. MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL. (*Larus melanocephalus*, Natt.)

Very common in winter in Corfu, and on the coasts of the mainland; breeds in the marshes of Albania and Dalmatia.

255. LAUGHING GULL. (*Larus atricilla*, Linn.)

Common in winter in Corfu.

256. LITTLE GULL. (*Larus minutus*.)

Tolerably common in winter, particularly in the yacht-harbour of Mandrachio at Corfu. This species arrives about the end of October, and leaves the country about the beginning of March.

257. CASPIAN TERN. (*Sterna caspica*.)

Occurs sparingly in winter at Corfu and on the coasts of Epirus.

258. SANDWICH TERN. (*Sterna cantiaca*.)

Rare; occasionally occurs in autumn at Butrinto.

259. GULL-BILLED TERN. (*Sterna anglica*.)

Not uncommon at Butrinto in January, February, and March. I have heard of the nests of this species at Livitazza, and am informed that it breeds in great numbers at Mesolonghi.

260. COMMON TERN. (*Sterna hirundo*.)

Rare; occurs occasionally in spring at Corfu and on the coasts of the mainland.

261. LITTLE TERN. (*Sterna minuta*.)

Occurs sparingly at Corfu at the period of the vernal migration.

262. BLACK TERN. (*Sterna nigra*.)

Exactly the same remarks apply to this as to the above species.

263. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN. (*Sterna leucoptera*.)

Common in April and May at Corfu.

264. WHISKERED TERN. (*Sterna leucopareia*.)

Common in winter at Butrinto; breeds in the marshes of Durazzo.

265. CINEREOUS SHEARWATER. (*Puffinus cinereus*.)

Occasionally seen in the channel of Corfu; more common further to the north, on the coasts of Albania and Dalmatia.

266. STORMY PETREL. (*Thalassidroma pelagica*.)

I only once saw this species in the Ionian Sea; this was near Paganía in December 1857.

## ON THE EXTINCTION IN EUROPE OF THE COMMON FRANCOLIN.

(*FRANCOLINUS VULGARIS*, *Steph.*)

THE game birds of Europe having always been objects of special interest to me as a sportsman, I have devoted a good deal of time and attention to the habits and history of the rarer species of that class; and my object in this paper is to throw together all the information that I have been able to collect about that most beautiful species the Common Francolin, which, I have every reason to believe, is now totally extinct in Europe. I notice that Dr. Bree, in his 'Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles'\*, states that the Francolin *inhabits* the South of Europe, especially Sicily, Malta, Cyprus, Sardinia, Naples, the Grecian Archipelago, and Turkey. I propose to show that, with the exceptions of Cyprus (which can surely hardly be considered as part of Europe) and Turkey, which I take to include Asia Minor, the Francolin is no longer to be met with in any of the above localities. Let us begin with the first-named, Sicily. M. Malherbe's account, quoted by Dr. Bree from the 'Faune Ornithologique de la Sicile,' is probably well known to most of the readers of 'The Ibis'; but it is perhaps less generally known that this account is translated *verbatim* from the 'Ornitologia Siciliana'† di Luigi Benoit, published at Messina, 1840. I have not visited the particular localities mentioned in that work as being at that time the headquarters of the Francolin in Sicily; but after diligent inquiries in the island in 1856, amongst sportsmen, cacciatori, game-dealers, and others well acquainted with the bird, I could only arrive at the fact that not one had been seen alive, or freshly killed, during the ten previous years. A friend of mine who made a shooting expedition in 1858, in what were formerly the headquarters of the Francolin, and who is

\* Vol. iii. p. 237.

† Ibid. p. 118.



well acquainted with the Black Partridge, as the Common Francolin is termed in India, told me that he saw several stuffed specimens in different places, but never saw one alive in Sicily, and that all the cacciatori agreed that the bird no longer existed in their shooting-grounds; although some of the veterans remembered it as formerly tolerably common, and gave a description of its habits, which exactly coincided with those of the Indian bird. The only Englishman, that I know, who has shot the Francolin in Sicily is W. S. Craig, Esq., now British Consul at Cagliari, who formerly passed several years in Sicily, but he only once met with the bird in a wild state there. That it was once common in the island there is no doubt. Olina, writing in 1622\*, says, "In Sicilia vene son molti;" and gives a good figure of the female bird. Savi, who tells us that the Francolin was formerly very common in the preserves of the Tuscan princes, but is now quite extinct there, says,—"*Adesso vivono ed anche trovansi assai comunemente in Sicilia*"†: this was published in 1829. Temminck and Degland both give Sicily as a locality for the Francolin, the latter author writing in 1849. The above is all that I have been able to learn concerning the Francolin in Sicily, and I consider the fact of its extinction in that island to be well established. The only authorities I can find for the existence of this species in Malta (a most improbable locality) are Temminck and Schlegel, and I have no hesitation in stating that it does not exist there at the present moment. In Cyprus it is still tolerably common, and on careful comparison of specimens procured by Mr. Tristram, in the market at Larnaca, with some in my own possession from the Punjab, I can discover no important difference. Temminck is the only authority for the existence of this species in Sardinia; and I can only say, after three visits to that island for the purpose of

\* *Uccellaria Romana*, p. 33.

† *Ornitologia Toscana*, vol. ii. p. 189.

shooting, that not only have I never met with the bird alive or dead, but I have never been able to hear of its actual or former existence there. In support of this, I may state that Signor G. Cara says, in his useful little work on Sardinian Ornithology, under the head of "Genus *Perdix*," "La prima sezione '*Franeolino*' manea fra noi"\*. This gentleman has often assured me that the *Franeolin* had never, as far as he knew, been found in the island of Sardinia. There are several authorities for the former existence of the bird in the Neapolitan provinces; but I am assured that it was imported from Sicily, and strictly preserved in the royal domains, and that it is now quite extinct there. My brother, who has just returned from Italy, tells me that very few persons of whom he made inquiries had ever heard of a "*Franeolino*;" and on one occasion a Goldfinch was brought to him, its possessor insisting that it was the only real, genuine, and indivisible *Franeolin*. In the Grecian Archipelago I cannot discover that the species now exists, though it appears to have been common formerly in Mitylene, Samos, and Rhodes; but, again, are we to consider these islands as belonging to Europe? Turkey is so very wide a term that, till I know to what portion of that empire Dr. Bree refers, I will content myself with saying that the only part of European Turkey in which I can hear of *Franeolins* within the memory of man is the shores of the Gulf of Salonica, and none are to be found there at present. I hope that Dr. Bree, if he does me the honour to read this paper, will perceive that the real question at issue between us is his authority for the use of the present tense of the verb "*inhabit*" as applied to the *Franeolin* in Europe, and I shall be most happy if he, "or any other man," can prove that it still exists on our continent or its islands.

It is remarkable that neither Temminck, Degland, nor Schlegel should cite Spain as a locality for our bird, as,

\* Ornit. Sard. p. 106. Torino, 1842.

though now extinct in that country, it was formerly common in certain favourable localities, especially the neighbourhood of the Lake of Albufera, near Valencia: *vide* 'Catalogo de las Aves de la Albufera,' by Vidal, who, referring to the work published by Eusebio, on the fauna of the province of Valencia, in 1722, says of the Francolin,—“ Muy abundante en la Dehesa en tiempo de aquel escritor, no se encuentra ya en semejante localidad.” I saw specimens from the above-mentioned “Dehesa” (a sandy strip of land between the Lake of Albufera and the sea) in the Museum at Valencia in 1856, which had been killed many years previously; but during a long day spent in wandering about the shores of the Albufera, gun in hand, and after inquiries amongst the fishermen and cazadores of the place, I could only discover that, to use a Spanish proverb, the Francolins were “idos y muertos y no tienen amigos.” Olina, to whom I have before referred, mentions the abundance of Francolins in Spain in his time, and tells us that they particularly affected plains overgrown with “ramerino e spigo.” I have been assured that Francolins were common many years ago near Tangiers; but I may as well mention that I have heard the name of “Francolino” applied in different parts of Europe to the following birds—*Otis tetrax*, *Pterocles arenarius*, *Pterocles setarius*, *Perdix gambra*, *Lagopus alpinus*, and *Ædicnemus crepitans*; and I am by no means certain that the name is not occasionally applied to *Tetrao bonasia*. To revert to Barbary: I observe that a writer in ‘The Field,’ of May 3rd, 1862, includes “the Francolin, *Arabicè* Boozerat,” in a list of the game of the district of Mogador and Saffi. Qu., is this our species? It is not included by Captain Loehe in his catalogue of the birds of Algeria; and though it is mentioned by our old friend Olina as especially abundant in the neighbourhood of Tunis, I have every reason to believe it to be quite extinct in that regency. I may here mention that I met a gentleman in

the Zoological Gardens at Marseilles (where there were several living Francolins from Syria), who assured me that he had once, and only once, met with and shot a pair of Francolins near Philippeville in Algeria. My own belief is, that the Ἀττάγας of Aristotle, Pliny, Ælian, Varro, Aristophanes, and others, as quoted by Buffon \*, was the Francolin, though the latter author is quite confused between his Attagas, or Attagen, and our *Tetrao scoticus*, which surely never existed in Egypt, Samos, Cyprus, and Barbary.

Having done my best to show where the Francolin is not to be met with, I may now state the very little I know as to where it is found. A friend, who killed many Francolins in the south of the island of Cyprus, told me that they were very abundant in the Vale of Maratassa near Baffa (the ancient Paphos); that they are found in sandy spots with good cover, near streams and ponds; that they lie pretty close, and will keep running before a dog, at last springing perpendicularly into the air, with a great outcry, and darting off with a flight much like that of our common Partridge: he considers them easy to shoot, and most delicious food. The discrepancy between this latter statement and that of Captain Irby may, I think, be reconciled by bearing in mind that, as a rule, the hotter the climate the worse the flesh, fish, and fowl. May not, therefore, the cook have had something to do with it? That the fathers did not agree with Captain Irby is abundantly proved. Olin quotes St. Jerome, who, rebuking some hypocrite's pretence of abstemious living, says, "Tu Attagenem eructas, et de comesto ansere gloriaris." Whilst I write, I receive a letter from a friend formerly resident at Naples, who tells me that, during six and a half years' constant shooting over the Terra di Lavoro, he never even heard the name of Francolino: he also says,—“Prince Pignatelli informed me that he once

\* Oiseaux, vol. iii. p. 264.



killed a Francolin near Palermo, about the beginning of this century; and such was even then the rarity of the bird, that his having done so was considered an extraordinary exploit by all the cacciatori."

Sicily has now fallen into the hands of Victor Emmanuel, who adds to his many other merits that of being a first-rate sportsman; and as His Majesty is titular King of Cyprus, and, no doubt, possesses his proper influence with his brother of Turkey, let us hope that the Francolins may again be established in their former haunts in "*Trinacria*," and thence, by degrees, find their way into the preserves of Italy's best foreign friends, the gentlemen of England. I have no doubt whatever that they would thrive in many parts of Great Britain. There could be no great difficulty in importing them from Beyrout, in the neighbourhood of which town they are not uncommon (the Arabs take them with trained Goshawks); and I think I may venture to say that our Editor would give them a reception as warm as necessary in the Regent's Park. The Francolin is a bird in every way worthy of the attention of the Acclimatization Society; and should they ever import any, and be at a loss for a home for them, I can only say that I should, at any time, be most happy to receive and give them every necessary attention. But I discover that I am advertising; so I will merely add, that I shall feel much honoured if Dr. Bree will take up the amicable glove I have thrown down, and if he can prove the present existence of a Francolin in a wild state in any part of Europe (properly speaking), I shall retire from the field vanquished, but delighted. I am of a hopeful temperament, and I do not despair of seeing the day when Francolins shall be as common in England as Red-legged Partridges or Chinese Ring-necked Pheasants.

June 1862.



## ON THE ORNITHOLOGY OF SPAIN.

(Plate V.)

THE birds of Spain appear to be less known than those of any other part of Europe of equal extent. The only authorities on the subject to which I am able to refer are, Captain Widdrington\*, Dr. A. E. Brehm†, Mr. Bury‡, Don Antonio Machado§, and two or three contributors to the 'Journal of Arts and Sciences of Madrid.' In my two short visits to Spain, I have of course not been able to acquire sufficient knowledge of her avifauna to write with any authority on the subject; but having taken careful notes of all that I did see, I am inclined to think that the result of my observations may prove of interest to some of the readers of the 'Ibis.'

My first visit to the country was in August 1856, in the Royal Yacht Squadron's schooner 'Claymore;' on which occasion, sailing from Falmouth, we first touched at Corunna, and thence, avoiding Portugal on account of the cholera which was raging at Lisbon, we sailed to Cadiz and all the principal Spanish ports on the Mediterranean, including Palma and Port Mahon in the Balearic Islands. As we merely stayed a few days at each place, and the weather was intensely hot, my opportunities for studying birds were not many; but I saw enough to render me very anxious to revisit Spain, and I may add that, to

\* Sketches in Spain. By Capt. S. E. Cook. London and Paris: 1834.

† Naturhistorische Zeitung, vol. iii. Dresden: 1857.

‡ Zoologist, 1848, p. 1958.

§ Catalogo de las aves observadas en algunas provincias de Andalucía. Sevilla: 1854.

my mind, a more interesting country in every way can hardly exist. A second visit in the spring of 1864 only confirmed my previous favourable impression of Spain, her people, her climate, her beauties of nature and art, and last, but by no means least in my opinion, her ornithological capabilities. As may be expected in a country so extensive and of such diversified geological conformation, no observations on natural productions can apply to all parts; and I may state that my own notes refer almost exclusively to Andalucia and the neighbourhood of Valencia, which localities in birds are probably richer than, or at least as rich as, any in the country. I only speak of the other provinces on the authority of others; for instance, Señor M. de la Paz Graells, Curator of the Natural History department at the Museum of Madrid; and Señor Cisternas, who fills the same place at that of Valencia. Many portions of the interior of Spain, such as La Mancha, and parts of Murcia and the Castiles, are unfavourable to all but a few forms of bird life, being arid and treeless; but even in these regions the observer may meet with species rare in other parts of Europe, such as the two species of Sand-Grouse, *Pterocles arenarius* and *P. alchata*, and no doubt many other forms usually ascribed to the fauna of North Africa rather than to that of Europe. Before I visited Spain, which country, *par parenthèse*, had always been the subject of my youthful day and night dreams, I was assured by many acquaintances (I cannot call them friends) that not only was there nothing to be had there in the way of sport, but that there were literally *no* birds except Larks and Hoopoes; in fact, that the country possessed no attractions beyond a few ruins, some good pictures, the bull-fights, and the beauty of the female population. As to sport I can say little, never having been in Spain at the proper seasons; but I can speak as to the abundance and variety of game in the unfrequented districts; and I trust that the following

notes will prove that Spain "has something still to show" in the way of birds, although it is certainly true that, in travelling by rail or diligence, very few are to be seen throughout a great extent of country. I suppose I must make a clean breast of it, and plead guilty to an infatuation in favour of everything Spanish, except her bonds and coupons; but I have at all events good argument for this weakness, if weakness it be, having made many friends, and shaken off a bitter enemy, viz. rheumatism, in Spain; and ill would it become me not to bear testimony to the extreme courtesy I have met with from all classes; to the great pleasure I have experienced in listening to, reading, and learning the glorious language, and the enjoyment of riding over the fragrant *dehesas* and rugged *sierras* of Andalucía. Even the *gazpacho* and *olla* have a charm for me; and I aver that the flavour of garlic recalls to my mind many a pleasant evening passed in divers Spanish *ventas* listening to stories of *la caza mayor y menor*, and inquiring and learning many things concerning the haunts and habits of my feathered friends. But I am forgetting that this paper is not intended as a eulogy of Spain and the Spaniards, but an attempt to add to our knowledge of her ornithology; so I will begin at the beginning, and tell what I know about the Birds of Prey.

My first introduction to the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus* ? *occidentalis*) in his native haunts took place on the banks of the Guadalquivir below Seville, where we saw a party of at least forty of these birds regaling upon a dead horse; they took very little notice of the steamer, apparently knowing that, on account of the shoal water, they were just out of gunshot. I have since met with this Vulture in all parts of Spain which I have visited, in great abundance, particularly in April 1864, in the Sierra de la Palmitera near Marbella, where we were encamped for two days in pursuit of Ibex (*Capra hispanica*). I cannot take upon myself to say whether the Griffon

Vulture of Southern Spain belongs to the form *occidentalis* of Sehlegel; but I imagine that it does, as all the individuals that I have seen there present precisely the same characters as the Griffons of the island of Sardinia, which I find Count Salvadori, in his most interesting Catalogue\*, refers without hesitation to that race. I may here mention that by far the majority of the Griffon Vultures of Epirus are extremely light in colour, and, I think, somewhat superior in size to those of Spain and Sardinia. Brehm states that all the specimens of this Vulture which he saw in Spain belonged to the *occidentalis* form. The Spaniards call all the large Vultures *Buitre*, occasionally distinguishing the present species as *Buitre franciscano* from the Cinereous Vulture (*Vultur monachus*), which they term *Buitre negro*; this last species is not uncommon in Andalusia, though not so abundant as in the island of Sardinia, where it is perhaps the most frequent of the *Vulturidæ*. I observed a pair or two in company with the Griffons, in the mountains near Marbella, as mentioned above, and near Cordova I several times observed it. This bird appears to be more fond of trees than the last species, and apparently does not live in such large companies. Señor Graells informed me that *V. monachus* is not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Madrid, and it also occurs in the Pyrenees. Every specimen of this Vulture that I have seen alive or dead has the points of the tail-feathers worn bare to the shafts, a characteristic which may be seen very distinctly when the bird is soaring overhead against the clear blue sky of Andalusia or Sardinia. I may here mention that I was assured that this Vulture, in Sardinia, does not lay till the end of March, whilst *G. fulvus* certainly has eggs in February. I state this only on the authority of the Sardinian shepherds, who are naturally well acquainted with both species.

\* Catalogo degli Uccelli di Sardegna. Milano: 1864.



A fine adult pair of Lämmergeyers (*Gypaetus occidentalis*) visited the neighbourhood of our camp near Marbella in April. The Cazadores assured me that this species often drives the Ibex over a precipice, and feasts upon the bones after the other Vultures have devoured the flesh. The mountain-chains of Andalusia are well adapted to the habits of this bird; and, although it cannot properly be called a common bird, it is found in pairs throughout the Serranía de Ronda, as also in the Sierra Nevada, and in the Pyrenees. There is a very fine specimen in the University Museum of Valencia, which was killed close to that city—a very unlikely locality, as the surrounding country is flat and richly cultivated. Maehado mentions this bird as rare in the Sierra Morena; but as he also states that *Caprimulgus europæus* haunts the tobacco-manufacture at Seville in great numbers, I think we need not place any great amount of faith on his powers of observation; in fact, it is very unusual to meet any Spaniard who cares for, or occupies himself about, any branch of Natural History, and any bird they do not see every day is to them a wonder. I believe the Lämmergeyer of Spain undoubtedly belongs to the race *occidentalis* of Selegel; though, if size is to be considered as a real distinction, the Andalusian bird fully equals the largest I ever saw in Turkey, or the Italian Alps. The Spaniards call this species *Quebrantahuesos*, i. e. Bone-breaker; I have also heard it called *Aguila*; but it is a well-known bird in its mountain haunts, and generally distinguished by the shepherds and Cazadores by the first-mentioned name. All the specimens which I saw in Spain had the breast conspicuously tawny-red. I cannot help still thinking that some of the birds of this genus, which I saw in Epirus\*, were of a new species, from their remarkably small size and certain differences of flight, &c., although there is no doubt that the true *G. barbatus* occurs fre-

\* Ibis, 1860, p. 2.



quently in those parts. I was told of the existence of two eyries of *Quebrantahuesos* in the mountains of Istan, in Andalusia (this was in April); my informant added that they had not laid! and as I unfortunately do not possess the rock-climbing skill of certain brothers of the 'Ibis,' and felt convinced that no inducement would persuade the natives to attempt a siege, I did not go out of my way to inspect the localities. The Lämmergeyer appears to live on terms of distant courtesy with his neighbours, the Griffon Vultures; he evidently is not of a sociable nature, though doubtless he possesses many domestic virtues, and seldom travels, or even goes out to dine, unaccompanied by his mate.

I have generally found that the lower orders in Spain refer the inquirer to the province of Estremadura for every beast or bird concerning which they know little or nothing. "En Estremadura hay muchos," has been said to me about almost every bird of the country—the truth being, I suppose, that Estremadura is comparatively little known, and contains a great expanse of uninhabited wastes and forests which are apparently, as yet, quite as little known, ornithologically, as the parts beyond Jordan before the explorations of Mr. Tristram and his friends. It is difficult to understand why Spain should be so little known to naturalists: there is no real difficulty or danger in visiting every corner of the land, and there can, I imagine, be few countries which so well repay any slight amount of discomfort in the way of bad accommodation, number of bed-fellows, and the like. I can state on my word of honour, that the flea of Spain is a trifle when compared to his cousin of Sardinia, and both sink into insignificance before him of Tunis. But again I am forgetting myself, and must bear in mind that, although it is difficult to travel in Spain without becoming in some degree acquainted with the insect-world, I am not writing an entomological paper.

The Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is very common in Andalucia, and probably all other parts of Spain, in the summer, and follows the plough, as observed by Captain Widdrington. In fact, during my last visit to Andalucia, in almost every instance, when I observed ploughing, there were a pair or more of these Vultures waiting about, and picking up the grubs turned up by the ploughshare. They are very fearless of man, and are conspicuous objects against the tawny-brown hills so characteristic of Southern Spanish scenery. The Spanish name for this species is *Alimocha* or *Aguila blanca*.

Eagles of many species abound in Andalucia, one of the most common being the Imperial (*Aquila heliaca*), called in Spanish *Aguila real*. I often saw this bird last year in the neighbourhood of Seville; the museum there contains several specimens, and I was offered a fine individual alive, in full adult plumage and in pretty good feather, though he was kept chained at the top of his owner's house in an apartment usually devoted, I fancy, to anything but birds. I very much regretted that I was not able to accept him, but as I was travelling about the country I could not well carry him with me, and most reluctantly left him to his fate. Brehm mentions this species as occasionally found near Madrid, where I obtained a good specimen in May 1864. The Imperial Eagle appears to be rare in the east of Spain, as it is not to be found in the collection of the Museum of Valencia, nor could I hear of it at Barcelona, Alicante, or Cartagena.

The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*) is certainly less common in Andalucia than the last-mentioned species. I have observed it near Granada, and all the collections I have seen in Spain contain specimens. I know nothing of the *Aquila fuscicapilla* of Brehm. A Golden Eagle crossed the road not more than thirty yards ahead of me, in hot pursuit of a little Bustard (*Otis tetrax*), as I was riding from Alealá la Real to Castro del Rio, in April

1864. I shouted and rode at him, and saved the life of the Bustard, at all events for some time, as the Eagle sailed indignantly off, and the quarry plunged into a field of standing wheat. The White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) I never saw alive in Spain, but Señor Graells has met with it more than once in, I think, New Castile. I have also heard of its occurrence near Valencia.

The Spotted Eagle (*Aquila navia*) appears to be rare in Spain, and I never saw it alive in any part of the country. The Seville Museum contained a fine specimen, and I found another in the collection at Valencia. I cannot find any mention of this species in any of the Spanish catalogues of the birds of Andalusia or Valencia, nor is it noticed by Brehm.

Of the subject of the accompanying Plate (Plate V.), the Tawny Eagle (*Aquila naevioides*), I find no mention in any work on Spain to which I have been able to refer, nor did I meet with it in any collection in that country; but I am quite certain that I have seen it several times in Andalusia—notably, near one of the stations on the railway between Seville and Cadiz, and again near Cordova, in April 1864. On the first occasion, an Eagle rose from the railway embankment and settled in a tree within forty yards of me, which Eagle, at first sight, puzzled me considerably; it was exactly in the plumage of the upper figure in the Plate, which, so far as I am aware, does not belong to any other Eagle, unless, perhaps, to *Aquila heliaca*. But this bird was considerably smaller than that species, of which I saw two on the same day in immature plumage; nor, indeed, do I recollect having seen a specimen of the Imperial Eagle so uniform in colouring. I made the acquaintance of *Aquila naevioides* at Tunis, where it is frequent; and I have, at the present time, three of this species alive in my possession, from two of which Mr. Wolf took the sketches for the Plate. The darker bird I have had for nearly three years, and he or

she (for I am ignorant of the sex) has altered very little in appearance during that time, though the dark markings have, I think, somewhat increased in breadth and number. The light-coloured specimen, which I obtained last year, I consider to be an immature bird, and, from its small size, it is, I think, a male. Mr. J. H. Gurney informs me that he received two specimens of *Aquila navioides* from Spain, which are now in the Norwich Museum; and I have no doubt that, though hitherto unnoticed, it is not uncommon in the south of that country. It is found in the neighbourhood of Tangier, and my three living birds were all said to have been received from Mogador. Mr. Gurney states that the Eagle procured by Captain Blakiston in the Crimea, upon whose authority Dr. Bree has introduced *Aquila navioides* into his 'Birds of Europe'\*, is, in fact, a specimen of *Aquila nœvia*; so that the only recorded occurrence of this Eagle in Europe, besides those mentioned above as received by Mr. Gurney from Spain, is, so far as I know, to be found in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for 1854 (pp. 8 and 351); but in the same volume (p. 160) it will be also found that the accuracy of the statement referred to is disputed, and the supposed two specimens of *Aquila navioides* are made out to belong to another species. My birds are remarkably tame, and live in amity with each other, and with a fine adult Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila bonellii*), which I have kept alive for nearly five years. This last-named Eagle is common in Andalusia, where it frequents the marshes, as observed in Epirus† and Sardinia. The Seville Museum contains several specimens; and it is mentioned by Brehm as observed in the provinces of Valencia, Murcia, Granada, and Madrid. I was informed that one of the specimens which I saw stuffed at Seville was caught upon its nest in a pine-tree, not far from that city; but on my inquiring

\* Ibis, 1859, p. 88.

† Ibis, 1860, p. 5.



what had become of the eggs, the usual “¿quien sabe?” was all the answer I could obtain.

Bonelli's Eagle is almost always to be found in pairs, and has a very different flight from that of any other European Eagle; it is known in Andalusia as *Perdicero* and *Aquila blanca*, which last appellation is indeed given to many other species, and particularly to the Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*), which is very common near Seville, and is, I believe, found in most parts of Spain; the Museums of Madrid, Granada, Seville, and Valencia contain many specimens. Señor Graells informed me that the Booted Eagle breeds in May, in the neighbourhood of Madrid, and usually places its nest on a poplar; in the country round Seville it builds in the Pinares or pine-groves, and is reported to lay only two eggs, of a dirty-white colour with indistinct rufous markings. This information was given me by a sportsman of Seville, who said he had often seen the nest and eggs of this species, and certainly *did* know the bird well, distinguishing it at once from the Buzzards and Kites by its feathered legs, and remarking truly, “no hay otra aguilá tan pequeña.” No one, I think, who has ever seen this Eagle on the wing can mistake it for a Buzzard, as its flight is very different, and its cry, frequently repeated, as unlike the wail of a *Buteo* as possible. It appears to prefer open country and isolated groups of trees to large extents of forest. The natives told me that this Eagle is the scourge of the Quails which abound in Andalusia. It is no doubt the bird referred to by Señor Machado as *Falco lagopus*, as all the specimens which I saw in the Museum of Seville under his charge were ticketed with that name; he gives *Milano blanco* as the common Spanish name for *Aquila pennata*; but my own experience goes to prove that that name is generally applied to the male Hen-Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). I find no mention of the Booted Eagle in a catalogue of the birds of Santiago and other parts of Galicia. I once saw



the Short-toed Eagle (*Circæus gallicus*) soaring in the air near Figueras in Catalonia; and a bird-stuffer at Barcelona had a fine specimen alive, but badly wounded, which was obtained in that neighbourhood. I saw this species in the Museum of Madrid, but Señor Graells informed me that it is not common in Castile. The Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*) I never saw alive in Spain, but it occurs occasionally at Valencia.

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), in Spanish *Halcon*, I saw several times about the Guadalquivir below Seville, and again in Minorca; in which last locality I observed what was evidently a family party of five individuals in October 1856. This was close to the town of Port Mahon. I notice that Brehm mentions *Falco peregrinoides*, Temm., as occurring in Spain; and if, as I think, Temminck's bird is identical with *Falco barbarus*, I have strong grounds for believing that Brehm is right.

All the Falcons I saw in the south of Spain were notably smaller than an average Peregrine; and I well remember remarking that it was curious that I should see nothing but male birds, as they seemed to be. A specimen of Temminck's *Falco peregrinoides* exists, according to Brehm, in the Museum of Granada, and another in a private collection at Murcia. I am not aware that *F. barbarus* has as yet been admitted into the list of European birds; but I feel little doubt that the Common Falcon of Southern Spain belongs to that form, though the real *F. peregrinus* also occurs, as, for instance, as mentioned above, in the island of Minorca. I was assured by Señor Graells that the Lanner (*Falco lanarius*) and La Marmora's Falcon (*Hypotriorchis eleanoræ*) have to his knowledge occurred in Spain—the former species in Catalonia, and, I think, the latter in Murcia or Valencia. For particulars of Brehm's *Falco gracilis* I must refer my readers to that author's account of the Birds of Spain, published in the 'Naturhistorische Zeitung,' merely stating, as my

own opinion, that this *F. gracilis* is only *Hypotriorchis eleanoræ* in one of its many now well-known variations of plumage. The Hobby (*Hypotriorchis subbuteo*) is not uncommon in Andalucia, where I have several times seen it, and is found more or less commonly throughout Spain during the summer. The Orange-legged Hobby (*Erythropus vespertinus*) I saw once in Andalucia, and there is a specimen in the Museum of Valencia, but it is not, I think, a common bird in any part of Spain.

The two species of Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus* and *F. tinnunculoides*, are, I think, in April and May, the commonest birds in Andalucia, with perhaps the exception of the Bec-eater (*Merops apiaster*). Every church-steeple, belfry, and tower, every town and village, every ruin swarms with them; I believe I am not at all beyond the mark in saying that I have seen three or four hundred on wing at the same moment on more than one occasion, particularly at Castro del Rio in April 1864. I think the Little Kestrel is somewhat the most abundant of the two species. The cry of these pretty birds is as certain to strike the ear in the towns of Andaluëia, as the twang of the guitar and elick of the castanets. Both species of Kestrel continue on wing long after dark. In the delicious summer nights of Southern Spain, when all the louder sounds of human life are hushed, and nothing breaks the silence but the monotonous note of the little Seops Owl, and the "wet my lips" of innumerable Quails, I have occasionally been roused from a reverie by the cry of the Kestrels over my head, seemingly passing and re-passing, and carrying on their usual evolutions in spite of the darkness. Whilst on this subject, may I ask if any of my readers have ever remarked the extraordinary cries of birds during the night? It has happened to me on several occasions after dark, in different parts of Europe, to hear very large flights of birds, with whose notes (in the majority of instances) I was totally unacquainted, pass

over at no great distance. Once, in one of the quadrangles of Christ-Church, Oxford, I listened for at least ten minutes to the continuous cry of a flock of birds—which cry I can only liken, and that very slightly, to the screech of the Night-Heron (*Nycticorax griseus*). Again, on the Esplanade at Corfu, in the summer of 1858, my companion and I were suddenly startled from the somewhat drowsy contemplation of our cigarettes by an uproar as if all the feathered inhabitants of the great Aeherusian marsh had met in conflict over our heads: this took place in July, about 1 A.M., when we were lengthening our days according to Tom Moore's well-known precept. It would be quite impossible to convey anything approaching to a just idea of the Babel of sounds, many of which neither of us had ever before heard; and I have no conception what birds can have produced the greater part of them; but I recognized the wail of the Curlew, the cry of more than one species of Tern, and the laugh of some *Larus*. In Southern Spain the Lesser Kestrel occasionally remains through the winter, but the greater number leave the country about October, and reappear in April. The Spaniards call the Common Kestrel *Cernicalo*, and the Lesser *Primilla* or *Buaro*: this latter name is sometimes applied to the Hobby also. The Merlin (*Falco æsalon*), in Spanish *Esmerejon*, is common in winter, and well known throughout Spain.

I have once or twice seen the Gos-Hawk (*Astur palumbarius*) in Andalusia, and also in Catalonia. Brehm mentions that, although he never saw this species alive, he met with it in all the museums which he visited in Spain. The Spaniards call the Gos-Hawk *Azor*. The Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*) is common all over Spain, where it is known as *Gavilán*. The Common Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*) is often found in Andalusia, and, according to Brehm, in most other parts of Spain. I have reason to think that *Buteo desertorum* is to be found in Western

Spain and Portugal, though I cannot at present state this with certainty. The Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivoris*) is common in most parts of Spain, on passage. I observed a flight of many hundreds of this species crossing the Straits of Gibraltar from Spain to Africa in September 1856, and I shortly afterwards obtained a fine specimen alive at Malaga. Vidal, in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Albufera of Valencia,' remarks that, although the Honey-Buzzard is very common there in its immature dress, it is extremely rare to meet with an adult specimen: I never heard of the Rough-legged Buzzard (*Archibuteo lagopus*) in Spain, except on the authority of Don A. Machado; and, as mentioned above, all the birds so named by him in the Museum of Seville are specimens of *Aquila pennata*. The Common and Black Kites, *Milvus ictinus* and *M. migrans*, are common in Andalucia—the latter perhaps more so than the former, in the neighbourhood of Seville, where it nests in church-towers and ruins. Both species are well known to the country-people, who call them *Milano real* and *Milano negro*. I saw a beautiful adult specimen of the Black-winged Kite (*Elanus melanopterus*) in the hands of a bird-stuffer at Seville, in April 1865, which had been shot a few days previously in the *marisma* below Seville. It is certainly not a common species in Spain, and I did not meet with it in any museum. Of the Harriers, I distinctly made out our three British species on the Albufera of Valencia. The Marsh-Harrier (*Circus æruginosus*), in Spanish *Arpella*, is very common throughout Spain; the Hen-Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) I often saw in the neighbourhood of Cordova, as also on the Guadalquivir below Seville. Montagu's Harrier (*Circus cineraceus*) is not, I think, common in Spain; there is a specimen in the Museum of Madrid. I did not meet with *Circus pallidus*. In conclusion, I may mention that I hope shortly to revisit Spain with the express purpose of making myself better acquainted with her orni-



thology; and I trust in some future Number of the 'Ibis' to be able to record my further experiences. [1864.]

Having revisited Spain last spring, as I before stated was my intention (*Ibis*, 1865, pp. 166-177), I am inclined to think that some further observations on the birds of that country may not be altogether devoid of interest to some of the readers of 'The Ibis.' I was unfortunately prevented by illness from carrying out my schemes of exploring the lower valley of the Guadalquivir and the wilds of the province of Estremadura, which, I believe, are the richest districts of Spain, from an ornithological point of view, both as regards number and comparative rarity of species; but, taking into consideration that my researches were confined entirely to the Castiles, I think that I am justified in saying that I met with fair success; and although I did not discover any new species, I made myself intimately acquainted with the habits of several birds of which very little has, as far as I know, been hitherto recorded.

I was very fortunate in securing, through the kindness of MM. Verreaux in Paris, the services of a first-rate preserver, M. Louis Michel, who had been for four years in their employment, and to whom I am indebted for the excellent condition of my specimens, and for very agreeable companionship during my stay in Spain. We arrived in Madrid, by way of Paris and Irun, on the 3rd of April 1865, and I at once set about trying to obtain permission to explore the *Sitios Reales*, or royal preserves. I found considerable difficulty in making my Spanish friends understand or believe that I only wished to shoot birds for preservation, and not to kill game; and in spite of the great kindness of Her Majesty's minister, Sir John Crampton, and Señor Bañuelos, of the Spanish Foreign Office, I did not receive the required authority till April 15th. In the mean time, I had ransacked the very scanty stores of the only two professional bird-stuffers in Madrid, Señor M. Sanchez, of the museum in the Calle de Alcala, and Señor



Severini, in the Carretera de San Geronimo ; but although they both had a good many specimens, some of which were of considerable interest, most of them were in such an extremely bad state of preservation as to be worthless. I, however, managed to pick out fair specimens of *Aquila heliaca*, *Bubo maximus*, *Oxylophus glandarius*, *Cyanopica cooki*, and *Pterocles arenarius*, besides a few eggs. In the markets I met with nothing of great interest, but procured some few specimens of *Otis tetrax* in full breeding-plumage.

I had been told by several persons that in the grounds of the Casa de Campo, a small country-house belonging to the Queen, to the south-west of Madrid, a good many birds of different sorts were to be met with ; and I was particularly recommended to apply to the King's head-chasseur (who lived in these grounds) for information and assistance in everything relating to beasts and birds. Accordingly, on the 8th of April, I sallied out by the Puerta de San Miguel, and, crossing the Manzanares by the Puente de Toledo, soon found myself at the gates of the royal demesne. On inquiry at the porter's lodge I found that Manuel de la Torr , the chasseur above mentioned, was away on a shooting-expedition, but was expected back every day. I roamed about for some hours amongst the groves and alleys of the Casa de Campo, and was much interested by the birds I saw. The beautiful Spanish Magpie, *Cyanopica cooki*, was very abundant, and, by concealing myself and squeaking after the fashion pursued by British gamekeepers for the destruction of stoats, weasels, and the like, I soon gathered twenty or thirty of these inquisitive and lively birds within a few yards of me. I had previously made acquaintance with them in Andalusia, but had not had time or opportunity to watch them closely as I did upon the present occasion. Their notes are very varied, at one time reminding one of the chatter of a flock of Starlings ; now and again a Jay-like screech is to be

heard, and sometimes a harsh chatter, somewhat like the alarm-note of the Mistletoe-Thrush. The flight and actions of these birds resemble those of the common Magpie, *Pica caudata*, but they are much less shy. I was assured that they did not breed till May; nor indeed did I expect to find them nesting, as, on May 1st, 1864, one only out of some twenty new nests which I found in the neighbourhood of Cordova contained eggs. The Spanish Magpie is a very local species; the principal facts I have been able to discover as to its distribution are as follows:—It is extremely abundant in the immediate neighbourhood of Madrid, and particularly affects the woods of evergreen oak. It is found more or less commonly throughout New Castile, La Mancha, Estremadura, the province of Leon south of Salamanca, and the portion of Andalucia to the north of the great southern Sierras. In the Sierra Morena it is found in myriads, and does considerable damage in the olive-yards and corn-fields. North of the Guadarrama mountains in Old Castile it is comparatively scarce, and, as far as I could learn, is unknown in Catalonia, and extremely rare in Valencia and Murcia. In Portugal, I understand that it is common in the neighbourhood of Lisbon (*Cf. Ibis*, 1865, p. 337), but, never having visited that country, I can only speak from hearsay on the subject. In Andalucia and Estremadura this bird is known as "*Mohino*," in New Castile as "*Rabilargo*," and in Leon as "*Ruipego*."

Whilst watching the Spanish Magpies, I heard at a short distance a cry which I at once concluded to be that of the common Buzzard, *Buteo vulgaris*. I advanced quietly through some thick undercover, and still heard the cry repeated, apparently close to me; but the trees stood thickly together, and I could not for a considerable time discover the bird from which it came. I, expecting to see the Buzzard circling in the air above my head, did not examine the trees closely, until at length I was certain that

the bird was in a thick ilex within a few yards, and at length discovered that my Buzzard was nothing but a Jay. I never heard this imitation of the Buzzard in any country except Spain; but there it is one of the most frequent of the Jay's many notes, and so exact a copy as at first to deceive the most experienced ears. The Jay, *Garrulus glandarius* (in Spanish "*Arrendajo*"), appears to be common in most parts of Spain. During my ramble on this occasion in the grounds of the Casa de Campo, I suddenly came face to face with a Scops-Owl, *Scops giu*, which was sitting tightly drawn up against the trunk of an elm about five feet from the ground. We contemplated each other, no doubt with mutual admiration, for some minutes, till the Owl, after bowing politely several times, retired to a thick ilex at some distance, where I left him. This species was then beginning to make its appearance in Castile; a fortnight later it was very abundant, and its melancholy call, "keeyou," "keeyou," to be heard throughout the night, and often during the day, in all parts of the country.

The Common Green Woodpecker, *Gecinus viridis*, is very abundant about the Casa de Campo; and on this occasion I also noticed one pair of the Grey-headed Green Woodpecker, *Gecinus canus*, which is, as far as I have been able to ascertain, by no means common in Spain. I certainly never again recognized it during my stay in the Castiles. The Green Woodpecker is known in Spain by the name of "*Pito real*," and appears to be generally distributed throughout the country. The Hoopoe, *Upupa epops* (in Spanish "*Abubilla*"), was just arriving from its winter-quarters in the south, and to be seen in pairs strutting about the sandy paths in the upper part of these grounds. I noticed a few of our British Pied Flycatchers, *Muscicapa atricapilla*, and great numbers of Goldfinches, *Carduelis elegans*, and Serins, *Serinus hortulanus*. Red-legged Partridges, *Caccabis rufa*, constantly rose before

me in pairs, and their cackling call-note resounded on all sides, while great numbers of Woodpigeons haunted the ilex-groves. These last birds were still in flocks, without, apparently, any present intention of nesting. The Great and Blue Titmice, *Parus major* and *P. cæruleus*, were very abundant; and I noticed on this occasion, besides the species above mentioned, *Hirundo rustica*, *Sylvia atricapilla*, *Ruticilla phœnicura*, *Erythacus rubecula*, *Philomela lusciniæ*, *Accentor modularis*, *Turdus iliacus*, *Turdus musicus*, *Turdus merula*, *Sturnus unicolor*, *Alauda cristata*, *Fringilla cælebs*, *Passer domesticus*, *Gallinula chloropus*, and *Podiceps minor*.

On my return to Madrid I found that a man had brought to our hotel a Common Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*, alive for me: this bird was in the barred plumage of the first year, in fact precisely similar, to all appearance, to a nestling; but at this time of year it was impossible that this should be the case. Its owner insisted that it was no relation whatever to the Common Cuckoo. I do not remember to have ever before seen a bird of this species in this plumage at this time of year, and imagined that it assumed the grey adult plumage at the first moult; but I find that in Spain the country people all affirm that the *red* Cuckoos are to be seen at all times of the year between April and September, and consider them entirely distinct from the Common Cuckoo. This perhaps does not go for much; but I mention it as I never before heard of the idea, and I should be glad to know whether any of my readers can throw any light on the subject.

On the next day, April 9th, I was again down early at the Casa de Campo, and, on this occasion, found that Manuel de la Torre had just returned. I made acquaintance with him, and found in him a man very much to my mind, well acquainted with all the birds of the country, evidently a keen observer, and full of information on local zoology. The chief facts I gathered from him were, that the Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennata*, about which I par-



tiicularly inquired, does not arrive in Spain till the end of April, and that the Great Spotted Cuckoo, *Oxylophus glandarius*, was then due, and lays its eggs in the nests of the Common Magpie, *Pica caudata*, very soon after its appearance in the country. We wandered about the southern boundary of the grounds of the Casa de Campo, where I had the pleasure of observing for a considerable time the actions of two pairs of the aforesaid Spotted Cuckoo. I had before had a passing glimpse of this bird in Mureia in 1856, and again in Andaluëia in 1864; but I fancy, from subsequent observation, that it is much more common in Central than in Southern Spain. On the present occasion, my attention was first attracted by a shrill chatter, quite unlike the note of any bird with which I was acquainted; and on approaching the spot whence it proceeded, I desiered four long-tailed birds hopping about an open space some sixty yards from me, and occasionally flying up into the surrounding trees. As far as I could make out, they were engaged in eating and devouring grasshoppers, now and then diversifying this pursuit by a little love-making and a great deal of altercation. Their actions on the ground are very awkward and grotesque; but the flight is rather swift and well-sustained, somewhat resembling that of the Common Cuckoo. They were rather shy, and, on my showing myself, at once flew off into the high trees, where I heard them for a long time pursuing one another, and keeping up an almost incessant chatter.

The following day I went down again to the Casa de Campo, and persuaded Manuel to accompany me with his gun. We again saw the Spotted Cuckoo, but he did not succeed in bagging one; he shot a Spanish Magpie, a Hoopoe, a Scops Owl, and two specimens of *Phyllopneuste bonellii* for me, besides which we saw, in addition to the species already enumerated, *Lanius rufus*, *Alcedo ispida*, *Turdus viscivorus*, and *Coccothraustes vulgaris*. In the Madrid market I observed Pintailed Sand-Grouse, *Pterocles*



*setarius*, Woodcocks, *Scolopax rusticola*, Golden Plovers, *Charadrius pluvialis*, and Stone Curlews, *Edicnemus crepitans*.

On my next visit to the Casa de Campo I noticed a pair of *Tinnunculus cenchris* and *Merops apiaster*, just arrived from their winter quarters. Manuel shot a Great Spotted Cuckoo and several other birds for me, including four fine specimens of *Anthus campestris*, which appears to be common in Castile during the summer months, and a specimen of *Potamodus cettii*, which is abundant, but, from its habit of frequenting the thickest brambles along the water-courses, and its extreme reluctance to take wing, very difficult to secure. The Common Cuckoo was in full song, and I heard many Wrynecks, *Jynx torquilla*. We obtained two eggs of *Oxylophus glandarius* from a nest of the Common Magpie, in a high oak, and these were the only eggs in the nest.

At length, on April 15th, I received the long-hoped-for permission to visit the *Sitios Reales* with a gun, and at the same time leave for Manuel to accompany me in my expedition. After one or two more visits to the Casa de Campo, on which occasions I added several Spotted Cuckoos, Spanish Magpies, and a few other species to my collection, we made an expedition to El Pardo, a crown-property at about seven miles from Madrid, consisting of a small village, a palace, and barracks, with an enclosed park some eighteen leagues in circumference. This park is in some places thickly wooded with ilex, cork, and the like, and is full of game of different kinds—deer, wild boars, rabbits, and partridges. In the winter, Woodcocks are said to be very abundant in the dense jungle of bramble, thorn, and tamarisk on the banks of the Manzanares, which, rising in the Sierra de Guadarrama, runs from north-west to south-east through the whole extent of this domain. Here we stayed for two days, but were prevented by continued rain from doing much. We spent hours in

pursuit of *Potamodus cettii*, but only succeeded in securing two specimens of this provoking but charming warbler. The song somewhat resembles that of a Nightingale, but is louder and more thrilling, and generally ends abruptly just when one expects the best part of the performance to follow. We searched in vain for the nest of this species. Three or four Vultures were almost always in sight. Bec-eaters were arriving in myriads, and skimming over the country in every direction, high and low; and Spanish Magpies were shrieking and chattering from almost every clump of trees. We recognized a fine Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaëtus*, winging his way towards the mountains. Both species of Kite, *Milvus ictinus* and *M. migrans*, soared about the village on the look-out for an unwary chicken; and as evening came on, the cries of three species of Owl, *Strix flammea*, *Athene noctua*, and *Scops giu*, helped to make night hideous or beautiful, according to the fancy of the hearer. These three species are common, and the two former, I think, resident in all parts of Spain. *Bubo maximus* is not rare in the mountains, and *Asio otus*, *A. brachyotus*, and *Syrnium aluco* are well known, though I did not obtain specimens of any but the four first-named species. The Eagle Owl is known as "*Buho grande*;" the Long-eared, Short-eared, and Tawny Owls indiscriminately as "*Carabo*;" the Barn-Owl is called "*Lechuza*;" the Little Owl "*Mochuelo*;" and the Scops "*Corneja*." I was informed by Señor Gracils that he has met with *Bubo ascalaphus* in the province of Catalonia.

We returned to Madrid on the 20th of April in pouring rain, which continued almost without intermission till the 24th, on which day I went down again to the Casa de Campo and shot several birds. The Warblers were arriving in great numbers, and we obtained specimens of *Sylvia orphea*, *Calamodyta arundinacea*, *C. phragmitis*, besides some Pied Flycatchers, *Muscicapa atricapilla*, a Tree-Pipit, *Anthus arboreus*, Scops Owls, Bec-eaters, Woodchats,

*Lanius rufus*, and Spanish Magpies. On this occasion I first met with the Red-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, but had not the luck to get a shot at him, as I had just killed a Warbler, and was struggling through the thick brambles to pick it up, when the Nightjar rose at my feet, and was out of sight before I could get my gun to my shoulder. The difference in size and the general lighter colour of the plumage at once distinguish this species from the Common Nightjar, *C. europæus*, which, as far as I have observed, is not very common in Spain. I was much struck by the enormous number of Swifts, *Cypselus apus*, which had arrived since my last visit to the Casa de Campo, and were now, with the Bee-eaters, by far the most prominent species about Madrid. The beautiful Lesser Kestrels, *Tinnunculus cenchris*, had also received strong reinforcements, and, with their congener *T. alaudarius*, now occupied every "coigne of vantage" in the town, particularly affecting the roof of the Queen's palace, where they appear to live amicably in company with great numbers of House-Pigeons and Starlings, *Sturnus unicolor*. Manuel informed me that a Peregrine Falcon generally took up its abode on the palace-roof in winter, and committed great havoc amongst the Pigeons. I found a specimen of this Falcon at the bird-stuffer's, Severini; but I am still of opinion that the common Falcon of the southern provinces is *Falco barbarus*.

We left Madrid for Aranjuez on the evening of the 24th April, by the Great Southern Railway, and took up our quarters at the Fonda de los Ynfantes, which hostelry I can safely recommend to any one visiting this summer retreat of Spanish royalty. On the following morning, after having paid a visit to the "Administrador," *i. e.* manager of the royal domain, for the purpose of obtaining his *visa* to my shooting-licence, we sallied out to commence our bird-nesting campaign. Aranjuez is a small village situated in the valley of the Tagus, near the confluence of

the Jarama with that river, the country around it being, from the abundance of water and consequent fertility of its soil, the principal market-garden of the sun-scorched and wind-blown capital. Magnificent avenues of elm, plane, and oak extend along the roads in all directions; and the green meadows and groves of deciduous trees of the royal *patrimonio*, as it is termed, form a most agreeable contrast to the sombre olive-yards and the most unvarying arid and tawny plains so characteristic of the central provinces of Spain; in fact the crown-property of Aranjuez may with justice be called an oasis in the desert; and though its sanitary reputation is not high during the summer months, it is the favoured abode of the Queen and Court, till the heats of July drive them to the pine-forests and snows of San Ildefonso. The *patrimonio* is of great extent, and is one of the most valuable of the many private estates of the Spanish crown. Of course, in such a thirsty country as Spain, we may take it for granted that where there is water there will be birds; and Manuel had given me glowing accounts of the great number and variety of birds of prey which breed here, and the abundance of wildfowl, Woodcocks, and Snipes to be met with during the winter in the *sotos*, or low-lying plains. We crossed the Tagus by a bridge just above the palace gardens; and, stopping awhile to look at the camels which are used to carry gravel, weeds, and the like to and from the gardens, we strolled along under a glorious overarching avenue of planes and oaks on the Madrid road, and investigated many a likely-looking hole for nests, without success, as the Hoopoes, Green Woodpeckers, and Titmice, of which we saw great numbers, had not apparently yet begun to lay. Great numbers of the Spanish Sparrows, *Passer salicicolus*, were building in the plane trees; and Woodchats, Pied Flycatchers, Goldfinches, Serins, and Nightingales in profusion enlivened the roadsides. Not even in Epirus have I heard so many of this last species;



and I was glad to hear that the "*Ruiseñor*," as the Spaniards call this delightful bird, is protected by special order of Her Catholic Majesty, who is repaid by a nightly serenade immediately under her palace-windows, such as not even the most skilled of her music-loving subjects can give her. We procured some more specimens of the little Scops Owl, and heard the fine clear note of the Golden Oriole, *Oriolus galbula* (in Spanish "*Oropéndola*"), which was then beginning to arrive in the country. A man at work in a field informed us that there was a nest of "*Milano*," *Milvus iclinus*, in a lofty stone-pine at some distance from the spot where we met him; and sure enough, on approaching the tree he pointed out, we could descry the nest and the tail of the Kite projecting therefrom. Manuel was anxious to secure the bird, as he received a reward of sixteen rials, between three and four shillings, for every *animal dañino* (noxious animal) which he brought in to the Administrador. We accordingly approached the tree, cautiously, from opposite directions, and I killed the bird as she slipped quietly off the nest on my side. The nest was nearly at the top of the tree, which shot up without a branch for at least seventy feet, and was far too bulky to admit of "swarming." Two urchins, who had watched our proceedings, declared that there was only one man in Aranjuez who could get to the nest, and that their father was that man. We accordingly despatched them to fetch him, and in the mean time shot many specimens of *Passer salicicolus*, of which bird great numbers were nesting in the thick branches of the pine over our heads, and some actually in the foundation of the Kite's nest itself. A bird, which I at once identified as a Short-toed Eagle, *Circæetus gallicus*, sailed by, but out of shot, and the male Kite kept soaring in circles far above us. In a very short time the boys returned with their father, a fine specimen of the Castilian peasant, a tall, gaunt man of about fifty, simple-minded, and civil,



as are the generality of his fellows. I mention him thus particularly, as I was so struck by his performance as a climber on this occasion that I retained him in that capacity during the remainder of my stay in Spain. He had come provided with a rope, one end of which, after a few ineffectual attempts, he managed to swing over the lowest bough of the tree in which the nest was, and in a few minutes was hauling himself up, hand over hand, after the fashion of a monkey. The nest contained two young birds, just hatched, and two rotten eggs. So much for our first day's nesting. On our way home we shot a fine pair of Little Spotted Woodpeckers, *Picus minor*, which I had not previously observed in Spain.

During the next few days we made excursions in different directions about Aranjuez, and obtained several more nests of *Milvus iclinus*, and added many species to my Spanish collection. On one occasion, Agapo, our climber, having ascended to a likely-looking hole in a white poplar, after hacking for some time with his bill-hook, declared that he could hear a sound inside which could only proceed from "*demonitos*" (little devils); and after some stirring up with a stick, out flew the imps of darkness in the shape of some twenty or thirty large red bats, of which we shot seven. We procured several nests of *Sturnus unicolor*, *Serinus hortulorum*, and other common birds.

On the 29th, at Sotomayor, on the Tagus, a few miles above Aranjuez, we found three nests of the Common Magpie, all containing eggs of the spotted Cuckoo, which is extremely common in this locality. In one nest were eight eggs of the Magpie and three of the Cuckoo; in another, one Magpie's and three Cuckoo's; and in the third, two of each species. In almost every instance the eggs of the Cuckoo had been longer incubated than those of the Magpie. A perpetual skirmish goes on between these two species, the magpies pursuing the Cuckoos with

loud outcries, but condescending, nevertheless, to rear the young of the interloper to the detriment of their own families, as I was assured, and from my own later observations, am inclined to believe, that the young Cuckoos forcibly eject the infant Magpies from the nest after the latter are hatched.

In a range of cliffs overlooking the plain of Sotomayor, Manuel had expected to find a nest of Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila bonellii*; but although we several times saw this species in the neighbourhood, we could not ascertain that they had bred there this season, the nest that he had known of in previous years having been appropriated by a pair of Egyptian Vultures, *Neophron percnopterus*. In the plains below I found the Little Ringed Plover, *Ægialites minor*, in pairs frequenting the mule-tracks, and apparently not caring about the shingle-beds and sand-banks of the Tagus close at hand, where I once or twice noticed the Kentish Plover, *Ægialites cantianus*. We shot our first specimen of the Red-necked Nightjar, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*, at the foot of the cliffs, and obtained several more specimens of *Potamodius cettii*, *Merops apiaster*, *Alauda cristata*, *Oxylophus glandarius*, and the like. Quails, *Coturnix communis*, were arriving in great numbers, and calling in every direction; and the clear notes of the Golden Oriole resounded from the oaks in the valley. Manuel shot a fine fox amongst the rocks, which he left as bait to attract Vultures. In many instances, we found that eggs and young of hole-breeding birds—Hoopoes, Woodpeckers, Starlings, and the like—had been devoured by the lizards (*Lacerta ocellata*), with which the country swarms, and in one case we disturbed a large lizard in the act of devouring the parent Hoopoe on her nest. The keepers assured me that these reptiles destroy an immense number of young rabbits, and will finish a whole sitting of Partridge's eggs at a meal. My dog, a Norfolk retriever, was completely puzzled by these lizards, and on

being told to fetch one would sit on his haunches and whine, not knowing what line to take with the gaping, wriggling animal before him, so different to anything he had seen during the course of his orthodox British education.

On May 3rd we took upwards of twenty eggs of the Spotted Cuckoo from various Magpies' nests in the trees along the road leading to the Puente Largo, a bridge over the Jarama, some three miles from Aranjuez, in one case finding eight Cuckoo's eggs with five of those of the rightful owner, in one nest. I shot on this day a beautiful specimen of *Sylvia conspicillata*, which frequents the low aromatic shrubs in the dry parts of the country, apparently preferring the districts in which there is a dense growth of thyme. In a marshy elbow of the river, overgrown with reeds, we flushed a Little Bittern, *Ardeetta minuta*; but I did not get a shot, and I could not make him rise a second time. In the reeds the Thrush Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, was very abundant, and kept up an incessant chattering, very much like the conversation of a party of frogs, with occasional snatches of song resembling that of the Reed-Warbler, *Calamodyta arundinacea*. We saw a pair of Marsh-Harriers, *Circus aeruginosus*, but did not succeed in finding their nest. Four species of Lark—*Alauda arvensis*, *A. cristata*, *A. brachydactyla*, and *A. calandra*—abound in this district; but I think that the Bee-eater maintained a numerical superiority over every other species. In a damp grove of poplars by the river I shot five beautiful specimens of the Red-necked Nightjar, but could not succeed in finding the eggs. I imagine they had only just arrived. On the hills near Aranjuez we procured three species of Wheatear—*Saxicola cachinnans*, *S. stapazina*, and *S. aurita*; the second is by far the most common of the three.

Having heard of a Kite's nest in the Queen's gardens, on May 1st we went to look for it, and found it in the top

of a magnificent elm close to the palace. Manuel shot the bird, which turned out to be a fine specimen of the Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*, the first we had procured. Before sending our climber up, we went on to examine another nest, of which we had been told, in a high plane tree in another part of the gardens. After some trouble we found it, and shouted in vain for some time to make the bird leave it. Up went the trusty Agapo; but the bird sat close till he was within a yard or two of the nest, when she dashed off, plainly disclosing to us the fact that she was not a Kite. Manuel was badly placed for a shot, and, though he fired, did not succeed in killing her. On reaching the nest, Agapo declared that the two eggs which it contained were white and unspotted. Manuel shouted to him to know if the boughs in the interior of the nest had green leaves on them, and, on his replying in the affirmative, declared that it was a nest of the Booted Eagle, *Aquila pennata*. Agapo brought down the eggs, which were certainly unlike those of any Kite that I had ever seen. Manuel assured me that he had no doubt whatever as to their being the eggs of *A. pennata*; but to make sure, we waited quietly for the return of the parent bird. She did not keep us long in suspense; but, after soaring far out of shot for some minutes, enabling us fully to identify her species, she dropped perpendicularly on to her empty nest, rendering it impossible to obtain a shot. The nest indeed was quite as far as Manuel's gun would carry; and though on the Eagle leaving it a second time he fired and declared that she was a dead bird, I must confess that I believe, for all the harm he did to her, she may be, whilst I write, preparing for another attempt at establishing her family in New Castile. The Black Kite's nest contained three eggs, and in its foundations were three nests of the Spanish Sparrow. I may here mention that in almost every nest of the two species of Kite, *Milvus ictinus* and *M. migrans*, which we found in Spain, were one or more nests of this



Sparrow, besides, in most instances, a large colony in the immediate vicinity. We found several nests of the Scrin, *Serinus hortulanus*, in the clipped hedges, the odoriferous establishment of a Hoopoe in a hollow elm, and nests of the Common Wren, *Troglodytes parvulus*, Blackbird, and Nightingale in various parts of the garden. Whilst sitting with some of the gardeners discussing our exploits over a cigarette, a very large flock of Bonelli's Eagle passed over to the southwards high in air; there was no possibility of mistaking the species, the very peculiar shape of the tail, which I have before noticed \*, and the tawny-red breasts of the immature birds at once serving to distinguish them. Manuel told me that he had several times previously seen large flights of this species high in air as if on migration; but as this Eagle is well known as a permanent resident in Spain, it is difficult to account for these large assemblages, more particularly at this season of the year. With one exception, I never before saw such a congregation of rap-torial birds, and should be glad to know if such an occurrence has come under the observation of any of my readers.

On the following day we went out to a small lake on the road to Oeña, known as El Mar de Aranjuez. In the tamarisk-thickets at one end of the lake we found great numbers of the Melodious Willow-Warbler, *Hypolais salicaria*, of which species we obtained many specimens; we also shot a little Bittern, and saw many White- and Grey-headed Wagtails, *Motacilla alba* and *Budytes flava*, Sand-pipers, *Actitis hypoleuca*, and several pairs of Eared Grebes, *Podiceps nigricollis*. Of this last species we obtained two nests with their full complement of eggs, but we did not succeed in shooting one of the parent birds. A few Wild Ducks, *Anas boschas*, were breeding in the rushes at the lower end of the pool; and in a range of low cliffs at a short distance we desiered several nests of the Common Kestrel, and one of the Raven, *Corvus corax*; but we had

\* Ibis, 1860, p. 5.

no ropes with us, and without them a siege was impossible. The Raven is very common throughout Spain: in a nest of this bird which we took was one egg of *Oxylophus glandarius*, with five of the proprietor's. This nest was in a high pine tree about a mile from Aranjuez. In the afternoon of the day above mentioned, I rode out to a spot on the other side of the village to which the carcasses of the horses which die in the royal *haras* are dragged and left to rot in the sun; here we found a great concourse of carrion-eating birds, consisting of perhaps some twenty or more of the Cincereous Vulture, *Vultur monachus*, a pair or two of Griffons, *Gyps fulvus*, a sprinkling of Egyptian Vultures, many Kites of both species, and a great number of Ravens. I made a long detour to attempt stalking one of the first-named birds, which I was anxious to obtain, but in vain; the ground would not admit of concealment, and the Ravens acting as sentries effectually prevented my success. I here observed, amongst many tracks of cats, foxes, badgers, polecats, and other predatory animals, the footprints of the Genet (*Viverra genetta*), which is tolerably abundant in Central and Southern Spain.

We remained at Aranjuez till May 27th; but during the latter part of our stay I was unfortunately prevented by rheumatic gout from taking a very active part in collecting. Manuel, however, was indefatigable, and I was occasionally able to drive out and take some small share in his proceedings. In the neighbourhood of Las Ynfantas, a guard-station and horse-breeding establishment about four miles from Aranjuez in the direction of Toledo, we found a good many interesting birds. The country about this spot consists of low hills totally uncultivated, with here and there large flat or slightly undulating expanses, the whole covered with gum-cistus, rosemary, lavender, Spanish broom, several species of thyme, and many other low-growing shrubs, with an infinite variety of wild flowers. The railway runs parallel to the road from Aranjuez to

Toledo, and separates the country just described from the marshy *Soto* on the banks of the Tagus, this *Soto* being in some parts under cultivation, and in others thickly wooded with common and white poplars, planes, oaks, willows, tamarisks, and so forth. The avenue along the road above mentioned is perhaps one of the finest in the world, and affords a congenial home to many species of birds.

On May 9th I rode out to Las Ynfantas, where Manuel was established, and found that he had shot several Rock-Sparrows (*Petronia stulta*), which were breeding about the guard-house, and in the woodwork of an old aviary now empty, but formerly tenanted by Peafowls and Pheasants. On our way I observed a beautiful Hobby (*Hypotriorchis subbuteo*), but could not get a shot at him; I shot a few Bee-eaters and a brilliantly-coloured Common Cuckoo. We were prevented by heavy showers from extending our researches to any great distance from the station; but we managed to bag a Little Bustard (*Otis tetrax*), four Spotted Cuckoos, several couples of Quails, two good specimens of the Sardinian Starling (*Sturnus unicolor*), and the only common Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europæus*) which came under my notice in Spain. We here saw the first Rollers of the season, but did not on this occasion succeed in adding one of these birds to our collection. On the following day, however, in the *Soto*, at this same locality, we shot seven beautiful examples of this species, and also obtained four of the Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*), and the same number of the Lesser Kestrel. We also met with the Garden Warbler (*Sylvia hortensis*) in great abundance, besides many other species already mentioned, and took a nest with two eggs of the Black Kite.

During the next few days Manuel was obliged to be at Madrid, and I was too lame to do much; but I rode about the country, and, with the assistance of Agapo, procured several eggs of some interest, amongst others those of the Red-necked Nightjar and Little Ringed Plover (*Ægialitis*

*minor*). The mode of breeding of the first-named exactly resembles that of its congener; the eggs, two in number, are laid on the bare ground, without any semblance of a nest. The nests of the Little Plover were always close to a road or mule-track, and far from any water; the number of eggs is, as might be expected, always four. On May 13th we went by a circuitous route over the Llanos de la Cabina round to Las Ynfantas, and on our way met with the Southern Grey Shrike (*Lanius meridionalis*), which I had not previously seen in Castile. It is by no means common in this locality. We also here found the Black-headed Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*), which, though very abundant in the south of Spain, is apparently rare in these parts. It is a remarkable fact that *Cyanopica cooki* should be quite unknown in the neighbourhood of Aranjuez. I could not discover that any of the keepers or woodmen were acquainted with it, although it is so plentiful about Madrid, at a distance of about twenty miles,—the only reason that I can imagine to account for its absence being the want of the evergreen oak, to which it certainly exhibits a very remarkable partiality. Manuel returned from Madrid, bringing several eggs of this Magpie from the Casa de Campo, and on this occasion put me up to the art of securing some Little Bustards, which consists at this season in lying in wait—near a patch of a certain plant with a white flower, which is very common in these plains, but the name of which I do not remember—until one hears a faint elieking note unlike that of any other bird with which I am acquainted, and impossible to describe accurately: this, it appears, is the love-call of the male; and on hearing it Manuel used to signal to me to advance upon the spot whence it came, he keeping in line with me at about a gunshot off. The male bird always rose first, with a great clatter of wings and a sort of crowing chuckle, generally a long shot off, whilst the hen lay close till nearly trodden upon, or sprung by the dogs.



These birds were now pairing, but had not yet begun to lay; I found that, unless the clicking note had commenced, it was merely vexation of spirit to try to get a shot on foot, although on horseback or on wheels one may approach the birds very closely. We found both species of Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles arenarius* and *P. alchata*) in considerable numbers; but it is only by chance that a shot at them is to be got by fair means. I did manage on this occasion to bag a beautiful specimen of the latter species out of a large flock which rose at a long distance. The recognized way of shooting Sand-Grouse in Spain is by waiting at their drinking-places in the early morning and evening during the great heats of summer. Both the above-named species are common in many parts of the Castiles, La Mancha, Murcia, Andalusia, Estremadura, and again in some districts of Aragon and Catalonia. The black-breasted species (*P. arenarius*) is known in Spain as "*Ortega*" or "*Churra*;" whilst *P. alchata* is universally called "*Ganga*." They delight in the barest and most stony localities they can find, and even in hungry Spain are considered "*muy mala carne*." Both species of Bustard are, on the contrary, in my opinion, excellent eating, the *Otis tetrax* taking the place and name of "*Faisan*" at the *tables d'hôte* in Spanish hotels, as the Black Grouse does at those of Northern Italy. The Stone Curlew (*Ædicnemus crepitans*) is very common in this district, and we shot several of them.

A pair of Golden Eagles soared over our heads as we sat at luncheon; and Booted Eagles (*Aquila pennata*) were continually in sight, beating the country harrier-fashion for rabbits and partridges, which are extremely abundant here. We found the Spotted Cuckoos in the open plain far away from anything worthy the name of tree. The pretty little Spectacled Warblers (*Sylvia conspicillata*) enlivened the solitudes with their lively actions and hurried notes, whilst the four common Spanish Larks kept

rising at almost every step. The specimens of *Galerita cristata* which I obtained in Spain are decidedly smaller and more rufous in colouring than the average from other parts of Southern Europe\*; and I fancy that Spanish examples of *Melanocorypha calandra* are less distinctly marked than those of Italy; but I have not had opportunities of comparing these last-named birds. Wherever there are trees in this neighbourhood, there are to be found numbers of *Lanius rutilus*, which is the common Shrike of Spain; *Lanius meridionalis* and *Lanius minor* are not uncommon in Andalusia, and *Lanius excubitor* is found occasionally in the north. I have reason to believe that the North African *Telephonus tchagra* occurs in certain places in the extreme south-west of Spain; but it is certainly not common in any part of the country, and is probably very locally distributed.

From May 15th till the 24th I was quite laid up and unable to leave the house; but Manuel kept M. Michel well employed, bringing in one evening two very fine adult specimens of *Vultur monachus*, which he killed as they were regaling upon the remains of the fox he had shot amongst the rocks of Sotomayor on April 29th, as before mentioned (p. 86). He also brought in several Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*) killed from their nests in the range of cliffs at the spot just mentioned; and Agapo managed with considerable difficulty to procure three eggs of this last-named species, all incubated. The stench from one nest was, he told me, so abominable that even he, hardened as he was by the perpetual consumption of garlic and bad tobacco, could hardly make up his mind to swing himself into the cleft in which it was situated: the cause of this overpowering perfume was an accumulation of putrefying snakes, which both Manuel and Agapo seemed to consider an unusual

\* [This would appear to be *G. theclæ*, L. Brehm, 'Naumannia,' 1858, pp. 210-213.—ED.]

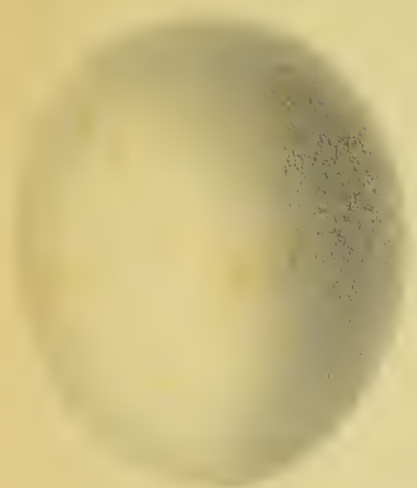
occurrence. In the other nests nothing more offensive than bones of goats, lambs, and the like was to be found. From Las Ynfantas Manuel brought in an Eagle which I took to be a specimen of *Aquila navioides*; but Mr. J. H. Gurney, to whose decision in such matters I most respectfully bow, pronounces it to be an Imperial Eagle (*A. heliaca*). This specimen is in a very bleached and singular-looking state of plumage, and in colouring very much resembles the ordinary plumage of *A. navioides*. Manuel pronounced it to be a very old bird which had long ceased to breed, and was leading a solitary life on the wilds of Las Ynfantas.

On May 21st some boys brought in two young Spotted Cuckoos, which fed greedily on chopped beef and hard-boiled eggs, flies, beetles, grasshoppers, and so forth. Agapo brought in three more a few days afterwards; and I succeeded in bringing three of these birds safely to England, and kept them in good health till about the middle of last March, when they all died in one week, though apparently quite strong and well, and certainly very voracious to the last. They are sulky and quarrelsome birds, only interesting from their peculiarities and rarity as cage-birds in this country. We obtained a good many more specimens of birds previously mentioned, and a considerable number of eggs; and on May 26th Manuel knocked down a magnificent male Bustard (*Otis tarda*) which rose at a few paces from the carriage in which we were. We marked him down, and Manuel after a clever stalk got within shot, and gave him the contents of both barrels as he rose. He did not appear to be seriously hurt, and attempted to cross the valley of the Tagus; but a violent squall of wind forced him back towards us, and he fell headlong into a field of standing wheat, in which Manuel, Agapo, and the dog sought him in vain for upwards of an hour. This was the only Great Bustard which we met with near Araujuez; but the species is common in

suitable localities throughout Spain, and several eggs were subsequently brought to me from the environs of Madrid. I was assured in Andalusia that a considerable number of Great Bustards remain in the plains about Seville during the whole year, but that they receive great reinforcements in February and the beginning of March, and that the birds which arrive from the south at that season are always the largest, and are distinguished by the *cazadores* as "*Moriscos*." In April 1864 I found the Great Bustard in great numbers in the immediate neighbourhood of Seville; and a brother 'Ibis' can bear witness to our vain efforts to procure a specimen, and to the fact that a fine male was brought to our hotel, which weighed 32 lbs. English. The Great Bustard is termed in Spanish "*Abutarda*," as has been often said; the Little Bustard is known as "*Sisson*" while the Stone-Curlew is "*Alcaravan*."

We quitted Aranjuez on May 27th, leaving Manuel and M. Michel to collect and skin birds for some days, as it was my intention to remain a short time in Madrid before going to San Ildefonso, and Manuel had insisted that it would be unwise to leave Aranjuez for good without having visited Villamejor, on the road between that place and Toledo, where he expected a rich harvest of raptorial birds, and where he assured me that the Imperial and Booted Eagles bred in considerable numbers. During the few days that we remained at Madrid I paid several more visits to the Casa de Campo, and found the Blue Magpies busily employed in their domestic duties. The nests are placed indiscriminately high and low, often within reach from the ground, and sometimes at the top of a lofty poplar, though I think the olive, the ilex, and the acacia are perhaps the most favoured trees. The nest varies a good deal in material and form, but is for the most part constructed of green moss and hairs on the inside, with a strong outwork of twigs and lichens, in





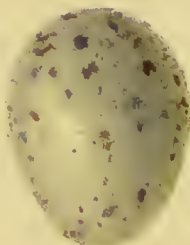
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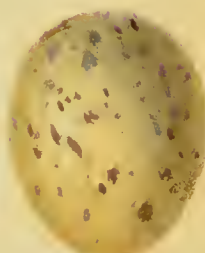
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7



8

1/2 N. 1/2 S. 1/2 E. 1/2 W.

200-6 QUILA PERILLATA, 1-2;  
CANOPICA DOG, 3-8.



some instances being very hard to distinguish amongst the moss-covered branches of the ilex and wild olives. The average complement of eggs, I should say, is six, though I have several times met with seven, and once or twice found five hard sat upon. As among the large number of eggs of this species which I have obtained there are a good many varieties, I take this opportunity of presenting the readers of 'The Ibis' with representations of a series sufficient to show what the most extreme of them are like (Plate X. figs. 3-8). The birds are very bold and noisy when they have young, but before they have hatched generally slip quietly away, and remain concealed, occasionally uttering a low chiding note. In most cases, where one nest is found there will be four or five in its close vicinity. I obtained several young birds, and regret very much that I found it impossible to rear them. After a protracted and diligent search, and a good deal of cutting and hewing with a clasp-knife, guided by the chiding of the parent-birds, I succeeded in finding a nest of Cetti's Warblers (*Potamodius cettii*) in a densely-matted briar on the bank of a small stream which runs through these grounds. The young birds appeared to have only just left the nest, and were hopping and chattering in the briars close to it. The nest was built of dead leaves and a few fine grasses, and was placed close to the ground. I several times lifted my gun to shoot at the old birds, but refrained from firing as they were too near me; and most fortunate was it that I was thus prevented, as, on emerging from the thick covert, I found that, had I fired in the direction of the birds, I must almost inevitably have killed a very pretty female specimen of the human species who was engaged in washing clothes within a few yards of me, but whom I had neither seen nor heard till I came out of the thicket. On informing her of her escape, and expressing my satisfaction, she laughed, and said, with true Spanish coolness, "*Ah, Caballero mio! I should have gone to*

heaven, and they would have done nothing to you, as it was an accident."

I found that Severini, the naturalist of the Carretera de San Geronimo, had been on a shooting expedition in the Sierra Morena, and had returned with two fine male specimens of the Spanish Ibex (*Capra hispanica*), one of which I purchased; he also had brought back a nest of the Long-tailed Titmouse (*Acredula caudata*), which he considered a great curiosity, never having before met with the bird or nest; nor did this species ever come under my notice in Spain. I was surprised to find in his shop a fine male Capereally (*Tetrao urogallus*); but I was informed by a gentleman from the province of Asturias that this fine game bird is by no means uncommon in some parts of northern Spain, where it is known as "*Gallo de bosque*," and also occasionally termed "*Faisan*." I have unfortunately, with the exception of a few days spent in Galicia in 1856, never visited any of the northern provinces of Spain; but, from what I hear, the fauna of those provinces differs very considerably from that of the central districts, and of course still more from that of the Andalucias. I am told, on good authority, of pine-clad mountains whose fastnesses are tenanted by the bear, the lynx, and the Capereally, their summits offering a home to the chamois and the Ptarmigan, whilst lower down roe-deer, Woodcocks, and our common Grey Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) in great numbers reward the armed explorers. Whilst on the subject of Partridges, I may here state that, with the one exception mentioned below, I have never met with any Partridges in Spain but the common Red-legged species (*Caccabis rufa*). The Barbary Partridge (*C. petrosa*) I saw only on the Rock of Gibraltar, whither it was introduced from the African coast; I have heard of its former occurrence in Mureia, but am assured that it is no longer to be met with in that province. The Grey Partridge is confined to the north; and I could not



hear of the Bartavelle (*Caccabis saxatilis*) in any part of the country,—my experience on this point entirely coinciding with that of Captain Cook-Widdrington ('Sketches in Spain,' p. 279).

To return to my proceedings at Madrid: I went down once or twice more to the Casa de Campo, but without any great result, merely adding some very brilliant Golden Orioles to my collection, and having opportunities of watching the habits of that singular bird the little Bittern (*Ardeola minuta*), which was breeding on the banks of the small lake in these grounds. Bee-eaters were committing great ravages amongst Manuel's bee-hives; and his *chico*, or servant lad, was busily engaged from daybreak till dark in shouting and firing to keep them away. The heat was now considerable, and had silenced most of the birds; the change in this respect between my present and former rambles in these grounds was very remarkable. In April the call-note of the Scops-Owl, the thrilling music of Cetti's Warblers, and Nightingales, the chuckle of the Red-legged Partridge, the incessant babble of the Great Sedge Warbler in the reeds, and a multitude of other bird-sounds enlivened these groves and glades; but now, with the exception of an occasional faint laugh from the Green Woodpecker, and the flute-like call of an "*Oropendola*" (the Golden Oriole), hardly a sound of bird-life was to be heard. My friend Don Manuel Sanchez, of Calle de Alcalá, brought me great numbers of the eggs of the Blue Magpie, with a few other species, and would not hear of any remuneration, as I had made him a present of an English work on ornithology, which he could not read, but the plates of which gave him extreme delight. A Spanish White, Bewick, or Yarrell still *se fait désirer*. There is no work whatever on general Spanish zoology, though a few lists of the birds and insects of some provinces, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Madrid, induce us to hope for better things; yet I much fear that

any general attention to natural history in Spain will long remain a thing of *manaña*.

On June 2nd we left Madrid for San Ildefonso, better known perhaps as La Granja, from the palace which is situated in the village. Taking the northern line of railway as far as Villalba, we thence proceeded by diligenece over the Guadarrama, arriving at our destination early in the afternoon. The road over the Sierra is very fine, the southern side being very stern and barren; on crossing the frontier of Old Castile, at the summit of the pass, we entered a magnificent pine-forest, through which we rapidly descended till we emerged on level ground near Valsain, a village about two miles from San Ildefonso, at the foot of the mountains, the lower slopes of which are clothed with dense oak-ecopse; and below them again the plains of Old Castile stretch away unbroken as far away as the eye can reach in the direction of Valladolid. San Ildefonso is beautifully situated immediately at the foot of the Sierra, surrounded by shady ecopses, and watered by the rapid Eresma, whilst the snowy peak of La Peñalara, eight thousand feet high, towers in the baekground, appearing so elose in this fine air that one is led to imagine that two or three hours would bring one to it, although the aseent is in fact a good long day's hardish work. The only birds I notieed on the journey were, besides the inevitable Woodchats, Larks, and Bee-eaters, a few Blue Magpies, one or two Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (*Picus major*), and a Goshawk, which dashed aecross the road elose to us. We found no inn open at San Ildefonso, as the Court was still absent; but we obtained eomfortable lodgings in a private house, and I at once sent off the *chicos* of the family to seek and bring in all the eggs they could find, as our hostess informed me that one of her sons was a *demonio* for bird's-nesting and would soon enlist the flower of the youth of San Ildefonso in my behalf. The result this evening was a nest with five eggs of the Blue Magpie,

and an egg of the Cinereous Vulture, which last the boys assured me they had found on the ground at a spot much frequented by this species, which breeds in the pine-forest close at hand, and is by far the most common Vulture in the Castiles. This egg is slightly smaller than those of *Gyps fulvus* in my collection, and is of a uniform clouded reddish-pink colour, very much resembling some varieties of the egg of *Aquila chrysaetus*. I have no hesitation in ascribing this egg to *Vultur monachus*, as, although I was unfortunately too late to find the eggs *in situ* myself, the fragments of egg-shells found in and below several nests of this Vulture exactly corresponded with this specimen, and I found that *Gyps fulvus*, of which species a few pairs used in former years to nest in a range of cliffs near the village, is now comparatively scarce in the district, only one individual coming under our notice during our stay at San Ildefonso, which fell to Manuel's gun, and is now in my collection. I received a letter from Manuel from Aranjuez informing me that he had been too late at Villamejor for the nests of *Aquila heliaca*, but had obtained there several eggs of the Booted Eagle with the parent birds, besides many other species. M. Michel and he arrived at San Ildefonso on June 5th. In the meantime the boys had brought me many eggs of different species, amongst them those of the Common Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), which is abundant here, though I never met with it at Aranjuez, Red-necked Nightjar, Blue Magpie, Spectacled Warbler, Missel Thrush, Blackbird, Common Swift, and Grey and Yellow Wagtails (*Motacilla sulphurea* and *Budytes flava*). We drove to Segovia, six miles off, seeing on our way a good number of White Storks (*Ciconia alba*), Common and Black Kites, Woodchats and Russet Wheat-eats (*Saxicola stapazina*), but not a single Bee-eater, Spotted Cuckoo, or Common Magpie, which birds, so abundant about Madrid and Aranjuez, appear to be very scarce on this northern side of the Guadarrama. “*Rabi-*

*largo*” also, the Spanish Magpie, was rather conspicuous by his searcity; and I discovered that all the eggs of this species brought to me by the lads came from an enclosed shrubbery of a few acres in extent, immediately adjoining the village.

As I was still unable to walk, I could of course do but very little in the way of collecting, and was forced to confine myself to the use of my eyes instead of my breech-loader, thus missing on June 5th a chance of obtaining perhaps the rarest bird which I met with during this visit to Spain. We were returning from a drive in the pine-forest, from which we had just emerged on the road near Valsain, when my attention was attracted by our *chico* (who was on the box) exclaiming, “¿Que pajaró es aquel?” and on looking up I saw a beautiful specimen of La Mamora’s Faleon (*Hypotriorchis eleonoræ*) passing us slowly at not more than ten yards’ distance. This individual was in the plumage which so nearly resembles that of the Hobby and is, I believe, that of the second year. We halted, and I had the pleasure, not unmixed with vexation, of observing for several minutes the evolutions of three of this rare species without being able to secure a specimen. All three were busily engaged in catching insects, over a marshy open spot close to the road, seizing them in their talons, and shifting them into their mouths with great ease and rapidity; they appeared totally regardless of our presence, and all repeatedly passed within a few yards of the carriage. One of these Faleons was of a uniform sooty-brown; the third was apparently in the same stage of plumage as the first we noticed, but not nearly so brightly or distinctly marked. The extreme length of wing in this Faleon immediately arrests the attention of any one accustomed to Hawks. This peculiarity is even more striking in La Mamora’s Faleon than in the Common Hobby; and the difference in size between the two species is much more remarkable on the wing than I should have imagined. On



informing Manuel of what we had seen, he told me that he had often observed small Hawks near the Eseorial engaged in catching insects, but never any of the *H. eleonora*. We revisited the spot where we saw these Falcons several evenings in vain; we never saw them again.

I was shown a Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) alive in a cage in the village,—the story about this species here being that Carlos III. kept a great many of these birds in an aviary at Rio Frio, a shooting-lodge at a few miles' distance, of which several pairs escaped and established themselves in the *pinar*, where they are now common. The possessor of the Crossbill accurately described to me a Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*) which I never met with in Spain, but which he assured me was not very uncommon about San Ildefonso during the winter. On June 6th Manuel and Agapo went for a long day up into the forest, and returned with a fine female Goshawk, shot from the nest, which contained three young birds just hatched. He also brought in a good specimen of *Picus major*, which is the Common Woodpecker of this district, and two specimens of *Parus ater*, which species I had not hitherto observed in Spain. They had also met with two nests of *Vultur monachus*, each containing a young bird, and a nest of *Aquila pennata*, which they did not examine, as Manuel could not manage to kill the parent bird. The next day I was able to get about a little on foot; and whilst Manuel and Agapo again went up into the forest, I wandered about near the village and obtained specimens of the Ortolan (*Emberiza hortulana*), which is very abundant on the hill-sides here, where I also met with the Stonechat (*Pratincola rubicola*), which appears to be very locally distributed in Spain, as, although common in many parts of Andalusia, I never met with it in New Castile. I found nests of the Woodchat and Woodlark, but sought in vain for that of the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), which we were assured existed in a ruined chapel near the village. Manuel

came in at night with a very fine specimen of the Cinereous Vulture, which he had winged with a bullet as she left her nest, an egg of the Booted Eagle from the nest which they found yesterday, and a nest with five eggs of our Common Redbreast (*Erythacus rubecula*), which, although common throughout Spain in winter, breeds only in the mountains, as I found was also the case in Northern Italy. The boys brought in two beautiful nests of *Ficedula hypoleis*, each containing five eggs, as well as eggs of *Sylvia cinerea* and *Sylvia atricapilla*. The next day, having procured ponies, we all went up into the forest together, and made for the Vulture's nest, from which Manuel had killed the female. This nest was situated at the top of one of the tallest pines, and was visible from some distance, with the male bird seated close to it. He allowed us to approach almost to the foot of the tree, and sailed off apparently unhurt by a volley of our four barrels. Agapo was soon up to the nest, in which was a young bird of about the size of a Dorking-cock, which made strong demonstrations of hostility on finding himself for the first time in close proximity to the human form divine. Agapo, however, soon overcame his scruples, and lowered him tethered by the legs to the ground, where we received him with every attention. A more unsightly specimen of the great class *Aves* I never before beheld: he was covered with brownish-grey down, with a bright pink cere and very pale yellow legs and feet; part of the trachea of a sheep or goat, perfectly hard and dry, completely encircled one leg; and altogether his appearance presented a combination of the absurd and repulsive almost impossible to describe. The nest was composed of large boughs externally, and was lined with twigs and a few fragments of wool. In the foundation of the nest, which was unusually deep for that of a raptor, a pair of Tree-Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) had established their abode, and were rearing a family of five or six young. This species appears to be common in all the wooded parts of the country. The

Nuthatch (*Sitta cæsia*) is also common in this forest, and I shot two good specimens close to the Vulture's nest.

A little further on in the forest we found a large nest, on the lower branch of a pine. Manuel crept cautiously up towards it, and shot a fine female Booted Eagle as she dashed off. He then made a *cache* with pine-boughs within shot of the nest, and in about half an hour another shot proclaimed to us that the male bird had also fallen. The nest contained two eggs; this appears to be the invariable number laid by this Eagle, which is one of the most common of the raptorial family in this district, arriving about the end of April, and remaining in the country till October. One of these eggs is represented on the accompanying plate (Plate X. fig. 1). The other and more highly-coloured specimen, drawn on the same plate (fig. 2), was taken from a nest at Aranjuez on May 7th. The nests, of which we found several, were generally placed on the lowest branches of a tall pine, at their junction with the main trunk, and were built of sticks, but inside invariably contained fresh twigs with the green leaves adhering to them. This Eagle has a shrill, piercing scream, different from that of any other raptorial bird with which I am acquainted.

We shot a Common Kite (*Milvus ictinus*) from the nest, which contained two half-fledged young, and also found a nest of the Common Buzzard, in which was a young bird not long hatched, and a large lizard, both of which were devoured by our young Vulture after a little pressing. I may here mention that I reared and brought home this Vulture, which soon became very tame, and that very evening devoured the greater part of the body of his maternal parent, which M. Michel had skinned in an incredibly short space of time. This young Vulture has now grown into an enormous bird; he is alive and well, and though not so amiable in temper as he was during his infancy, appears to live amicably with a fine old Golden

Eagle in my aviary here, recalling to my mind many *cosas de España*, and making me long to be once more amongst the pines of San Ildefonso, with the untiring Manuel and trusty Agapo.

The commonest birds in this forest are Woodpigeons (*Columba palumbus*), Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Chaffinches, Nuthatches, and Coal Titmice, besides the various birds of prey before mentioned. I on this day saw a Dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*) for the first time in Spain; this bird is common on the Eresma and the other mountain-streams of this district. A pair of Redstarts were nesting in the roof of the church of Ildefonso, which were, I presume, of the race or variety known as the Grey Redstart (*Ruticilla cairii*), as both male and female were in a state of plumage very closely resembling that of the females of *R. tithys*. I could not shoot them, as they always haunted the church in the middle of the village; but I had numerous opportunities of observing them closely, as the window of my room commanded a full and near view of their favourite habitat. The song of the male bird resembles that of the Common Redstart (*R. phænicura*) more than that of *R. tithys*: and he was very noisy about day-break and sunset. These were the only birds of this race that I met with, though *R. tithys* was very abundant amongst the rocks at some distance from the village.

We remained at San Ildefonso till June 15, making a few more expeditions up into the Sierra, where we found several more nests of *Vultur monachus* (each containing a single young bird), some more nests of *Aquila pennata* with eggs, and obtained on one occasion a fine specimen of *Gyps fulvus*, as before mentioned. I was surprised to find the common Hedge-Sparrow (*Accentor modularis*) in great abundance high up on the mountains, haunting and breeding amongst the scrub which crops up amongst the detritus and scattered boulders below the crags, in just the sort of locality I should have expected to find *A. alpinus*, with



which species, however, I did not here meet. The Rock-Thrush (*Petrocincla saxatilis*), the Rock-Swallow (*Hirundo rupestris*), and the Wall-Creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) were common amongst the peaks of the Sierra, and I on several occasions noticed the Alpine Swift (*Cypselus melba*). We often saw a pair of Lämmergeyers (*Gypaetus barbatus*), but never could manage to secure a specimen. A woodcutter met us one day in the forest swinging a young Golden Eagle in one hand, whilst the other grasped an egg from the same nest. He had just taken them, and took us to the spot; the nest was built in the top of a low pine, at not more than twelve or fourteen feet from the ground, in a craggy and thickly-grown part of the forest, at about a mile from the village. Manuel was at the place before daybreak the next morning, and came in a few hours after with the female bird, which he had shot as she came sailing to the nest with a Partridge in her talons. The boys brought in several eggs of *Budytes flava*, and one nest with eggs and bird of *Motacilla sulphurea*, as well as some eggs of *Cyanopica cooki*, *Scops giu*, *Ruticilla tithys*, and others of no particular interest.

Here ended my ornithological researches in Spain. I regret that, not having yet visited the country during the winter months, I am unable to give any very precise information, from personal observation, as to the waders and swimming-birds of the Peninsula; but I propose on some future occasion, to publish a complete list of the species that have come under my notice, either in a wild state or in collections, with their scientific and local Spanish names, and the localities in which I met with them.

Lilford, August 1866.

THE END.



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